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Gen. Abrams: US-S. Korea exercises are top priority

By CLAUDIA GRISALES
AND COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Gen. Robert B. Abrams, nominated to become commander of U.S. Forces Korea, told a panel of senators on Tuesday that the pause in U.S.-South Korea military exercises could eventually hurt troop readiness and would be a top priority under his watch.

Abrams, who also would lead United Nations Command and Combined Forces Command in Korea if confirmed, made the comments during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing to vet him for these jobs.

The joint exercises were stopped following the June summit in Singapore between President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un, a move that drew criticism that the lack of training would hurt military readiness on the peninsula.

"That's hard to judge, and to be honest, if confirmed, this will be one of my top priorities when I get on the ground... to do my own personal assessment," Abrams, who now leads U.S. Army Forces Command, told the committee.

SEE ABRAMS ON PAGE 6



RELATED

SOUTHCOM nominee
adamant that he had
no nefarious ties to
'Fat Leonard' scandal

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RICHARD DREW/AP

President Donald Trump addresses the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters Tuesday.

Trump boasts of America's might, draws headshakes at UN

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
AND ZEEK MILLER
Associated Press

President Donald Trump delivered a sharp rebuke of multinational authority at the United Nations on Tuesday, drawing headshakes and even laughter from fellow world leaders as he boasted of America's economic and military might.

Trump arrived late, forcing a last-minute scheduling switch, then received polite applause but also blank stares as he took his blustery brand of "America First" policies to the annual General Assembly.

Speaking in triumphal terms, Trump approached the address as an annual report to the world on his country's progress since his

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inauguration. He crowed that in "less than two years, my administration has accomplished more than almost any administration in the history of our country."

Rather than applaud or indicate they were impressed, the audience began to chuckle and some broke into outright laughter. Trump appeared briefly flustered before joking that it was not the reaction he expected but "that's all right."

The moment only reinforced Trump's isolation among allies and foes alike, as his nationalistic policies have created rifts with erstwhile partners and cast doubt in some circles about the reliability of American commitments around the world.

SEE TRUMP ON PAGE 7

MILITARY

Soldier gets 11 years in La. chemical bomb case

By ALEX HORTON
The Washington Post

Sgt. Joshua Farbro walked into the ring of rapidly yellowing vegetation to investigate the booms echoing through Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana.

Other soldiers reported a staccato of noises and a cloud of smoke that rose above the tree line just outside Fort Polk.

Farbro arrived and collected rocks coated with an unknown substance at the center of a 30-foot radius reeking of chlorine. His latex gloves began to melt, he told The Washington Post on Monday, and acid tore into his esophagus and lungs. He passed out at one point, and was rushed to a hospital.

Authorities later detained Spc. Ryan Keith Taylor, 24, a soldier assigned to Fort Polk, in the April 2017 incident.

In June, after first pleading innocent, Taylor pleaded guilty to manufacturing and detonation of a chemical weapon, U.S. Attorney David C. Joseph said in a statement. The chemical was identified as chlorine gas.

Farbro testified in federal court in Lafayette on Monday before Taylor was sentenced to 135 months in prison, or slightly more than 11 years.

Initially, prosecutors said he could face up to life in prison.

Farbro was forced to medically retire after seven years of service, including time spent as a sniper on Fort Polk's emergency

response team.

The injuries derailed a promising investigative career, he said, and a doctor told him his injuries could be fatal if his health deteriorates.

Farbro's lungs are laced with deep scars, and his lung capacity has dropped to as little as 20 percent, he said. He may require a transplant in the future, but doctors are concerned that chemicals still embedded in his system would spread to other parts of his body during surgery, he said.

"I'm still trying to process it," he said about the verdict, as he drove back to the tiny Southeast Texas town of Buna.

Chlorine is a naturally reactive chemical element produced commercially for antiseptic uses such as treating swimming pools and drinking water.

But it is deadly when weaponized in a gaseous form; it encounters moisture in the mouth, lungs and throat, turning the gas into deadly hydrochloric acid, said Brian Castner, a former Air Force bomb disposal officer.

It essentially scars and melts wet surfaces inside the body after inhalation, Castner said Monday.

"Some people are attracted to [bombmaking] because it's illegal, and want to make something dangerous that they can avoid themselves," said Castner, who authored "The Long Walk" and "All the Ways We Kill and Die" after his two tours in Iraq.

Farbro's retelling and court

documents detail a bizarre incident of alleged amateur bomb-making by a junior soldier, using common ingredients to create the weapon.

A trio of soldiers were conducting land navigation in the Kisatchie forest, which authorities said has been partly deputized for Army use.

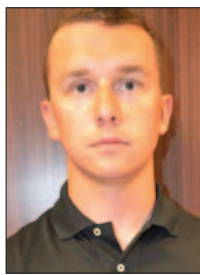
The soldiers were about 300 feet away when they heard loud noises and saw smoke, according to court filings. They raced to the scene and found Taylor in uniform climbing out of a car, cellphone in hand, as if he was filming the incident, the soldiers told investigators.

After he was pressed for details, Taylor left in a car with some materials later recovered from the side of a road. He was later detained.

Farbro, a military police detective, soon arrived at the scene alongside an explosive ordnance disposal team, which cleared the area for investigation, he said.

He stood at ground zero and collected the contaminated rocks, which caused plastic storage bags to inflate and pop, the filing says. He and another soldier were rushed to a hospital to be treated for chlorine gas exposure. He later suffered a collapsed lung.

Authorities recovered an empty pipe bomb at Taylor's apartment, along with a military-made training grenade fuse and smoke grenade, court filings show. There were other materials linked to



Courtesy of Vernon Parish (La.) Sheriff's Office

Spc. Ryan Keith Taylor pleaded guilty on June 11 to producing, possessing and using a chemical weapon.

chlorine in his car, the document says.

Castner reviewed a list of Google searches and descriptions of components in Taylor's recovered journal that were recorded in his plea documents. They show a familiarity with explosives terms, but Castner said that Taylor appears to be an amateur.

Joseph, the prosecutor who investigated and brought the indictment, said that it was unclear whether Taylor had intended to harm anyone.

He had a fascination with improvised explosive devices, fellow soldiers told Joseph.

Several soldiers recounted how he volunteered to build dummy IEDs for a training course on how to spot the weapons in combat, Joseph said.

Taylor's attorney did not return a request for comment about Taylor's potential motives or plans. A charge related to child pornography was dropped in the plea deal, the Associated Press reported.

Commissioning plans set for 4th USS Indiana

Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Indiana residents are set to celebrate the commissioning of the first Navy vessel to bear the state's name since the end of World War II.

The commissioning ceremony for the USS Indiana will be held Saturday in Cape Canaveral, Fla., The South Bend Tribune reported.

The nearly 380-foot-long sub can reach speeds of more than 25 knots.

Construction on the new vessel began in 2012. Many Indiana manufacturers made parts for it, including Elkhart Brass, Hoosier Spring Co. and Dwyer Instruments.

The Navy received the new sub in June.

The nonprofit USS Indiana Commissioning Committee has been traveling around the state to educate students about the vessel.

The nonprofit aims to create a relationship between the submarine, the crew and Indiana communities, said Chairman Ray Shearer.

The submarine is the fourth vessel to be named after Indiana. Two others were battleships — one used during the 1898 Spanish-American War and the other during World War II.

There are about a dozen living members of the former World War II battleship and one member living in Muncie plans to attend the commissioning ceremony, Shearer said.

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MILITARY

Mattis: US focus on defeat of ISIS in Syria

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — U.S. troops have been fighting Islamic State militants in Syria for four years and will remain in eastern portions of the war-torn country until American leaders are convinced the terrorist group cannot mount a return, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Monday.

For now, ISIS remains the sole focus for the roughly 2,000 American troops in Syria, whose objectives include aiding Syrian Democratic Forces in defeating the terrorist group and training local security forces to protect areas already purged of the group, Mattis told reporters at the Pentagon.

It was a similar refrain from the defense

chief who has long insisted U.S. troops were only in Syria to face off ISIS.

"Our troops are there for that one purpose right now," Mattis said of the fight against ISIS. "We obviously have got to train up local security forces, so that ISIS and others ... cannot get in. That's part of the defeat of ISIS."

But his comments followed statements by National Security Adviser John Bolton that American forces had other roles in Syria.

Earlier Monday, Bolton told The Associated Press that American troops would remain in Syria as long as Iranian-controlled forces were in the country propping up Syrian President Bashar Assad, whose forces have been locked in a seven-year civil war also backed by Russia.

"We're not going to leave as long as Iranian troops are outside Iranian borders and that includes Iranian proxies and militias," Bolton said.

Earlier this year, President Donald Trump signaled that he was considering the pull out of U.S. troops from Syria. Trump said last week that he would make a decision soon about the future of the American troops there.

Mattis on Monday declined to make the same assertion as Bolton about Iranian forces. Still, the former Marine general insisted there was "no daylight" between his and Bolton's position on Syria. Mattis said the two men had spoken twice already Monday, but he referred questions about Bolton's statement to the White House.

Mattis placed blame for the ongoing

bloodshed in Syria on Russia and Iran. Without their support for Assad, Mattis said the war would have ended years ago. He encouraged all sides to support the U.N.-led peace process to end the war.

In eastern Syria, U.S. troops and Syrian Democratic Forces are fighting ISIS in their final stronghold of Hajin, a town on the Euphrates River about 20 miles from the Iraqi border. Mattis declined to say how long that fight could last. U.S. officials have estimated ISIS still boasts 1,000 to 2,000 fighters in the area.

"That fighting is ongoing," Mattis said. "As we forecasted, it's been a tough fight, and we are winning."

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MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

A U.S. Army M1 Abrams tank speeds to its firing position during a live-fire exercise involving Polish and American troops in Zagan, Poland, in 2017.

US explores Poland base sites

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. military is investigating sites for a potential base in Poland, a country that has offered up to \$2 billion toward developing infrastructure for stationing a permanent American military force.

The Pentagon will look at land the Poles have offered to determine if a base makes sense there, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Monday.

"The first thing we have to do is look at what are they offering, because then you size up what it can actually hold and sustain," Mattis told reporters in Washington, adding no final decisions have been made. "So we are in the exploratory phase of doing just that."

Poland, which has long lobbied for more American troops, made its most overt request during a meeting last week between President Andrzej Duda and President Donald Trump.

When Trump said the U.S. was open to the idea of a base in the central European country, considering Warsaw's willingness to contribute funding, Duda added

that any new site could be called "Fort Trump."

Inside the Army, there hasn't been a groundswell of interest in adding large numbers of U.S. forces permanently based in Europe, let alone Poland. Over the past couple of years, Army leaders have touted a rotational model that has enabled the service to maneuver forces along NATO's eastern flank without having to invest in schools, recreation, support services and other infrastructure that come with a more permanent force.

Mattis, a retired Marine general, could be sympathetic to the Army's rotational model as the debate heats up over setting up shop in Poland — the Corps has historically favored troop rotations over extensive overseas bases.

Still, the Army has surveyed various sites in Europe for potential basing. Last year, the Army scouted existing allied bases in northern Germany. Poland's aggressive lobbying adds a twist.

The U.S. already has a quasi-permanent force in Poland — an Air Force detachment operates year-round at Lask Air Base. A U.S.-led NATO battle group is positioned 50 miles from Poland's

border with the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad, and a mission command headquarters for all Army operations in the Baltics and Poland is situated in the city of Poznan.

The Navy is also developing a small missile defense site in the northern Poland town of Redzikowo as part of the U.S.'s missile defense mission in Europe.

As the military looks at sites, access to training grounds will likely be a major factor if any potential buildup focuses on ground forces.

Szczecin and Zagan in western Poland both have large ranges that the U.S. could utilize or expand upon. In the northeastern town of Orzysz, where the U.S.-led NATO battle group now operates, U.S. and allied units conduct regular large-scale, live-fire drills.

Among allies, opinions on a permanent base in Poland are mixed. NATO has emphasized the rotational nature of its expanding mission along its eastern flank, and key states like Germany and France oppose the idea of setting up permanent bases.

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Mounting casualties prompt shift in Afghanistan tactics

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan is adjusting tactics to address mounting casualties among local security forces, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said this week.

Mattis said the international coalition — which focuses on training, advising and assisting Afghan forces — had begun providing more support in other areas. He didn't elaborate.

"The Afghan army has taken severe casualties over the past year and a half," Mattis told reporters Monday at the Pentagon. Mattis stopped short of calling the casualty rate unsustainable when asked if it was.

"When people say something is unsustainable, it is better to look at what they have actually sustained, and it appears they've sustained it somehow," he said.

Mattis' comments came a day after Afghan Defense Minister Gen. Tariq Shah Bahrami told parliament's upper house that the past month had been the deadliest ever for the Afghan army.

"Unfortunately, in the last month, 513 [Afghan National Army] soldiers were killed, 718 wounded and 43 captured; it was the highest number of fatalities we have had in a single month," Bahrami said, according to Afghanistan's TOLO News.

Adding to the toll were the Taliban's storming of Ghazni city — which required U.S. special operations forces and air power

to tackle — and attacks on three military bases in different parts of the country in August.

Bahrami said enemy casualties during the same period were three to four times those of government forces.

Afghan casualties, an important number for gauging success in the U.S.'s longest war, now in its 17th year, have largely been kept from the public since last year.

In October, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said it had been asked by the U.S. military not to publish casualty data, attrition rates or recruitment numbers.

U.S. Forces-Afghanistan said much of the information was being restricted at the request of the Afghan government, which has fueled speculation that the Afghans are sustaining heavy losses and finding it difficult to recruit new soldiers.

SIGAR in July highlighted continuing manning shortfalls among Afghan security forces, saying they were at only 89.5 percent of their goal strength.

The Afghan army and police have suffered rising casualties since 2014, when international combat operations ended and they took charge of securing the country.

Roughly 14,000 U.S. troops remain in Afghanistan, split between NATO's mission to train local forces and a separate counterterrorism mission.

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Medical team members rush toward an Afghan Mi-17 helicopter with wounded soldiers aboard in Faryab province, Afghanistan, last month.

NICHOLAS DUTTON
Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

MILITARY

Sailors give back on Guam after Valiant Shield

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS Ronald Reagan strike group arrived in Guam this week after wrapping up “successful” Valiant Shield drills in the Northern Marianas, a Task Force 70 statement said.

The weeklong, U.S.-only exercise included 15,000 sailors, airmen, soldiers and Marines participating in maritime security operations, anti-submarine and air-defense drills and a sinking exercise in which a decommissioned ship was used for live-fire training.

“Our assets performed remarkably well during the event,”

Cmdr. Randy Reed of Submarine Group 7 said in a 7th Fleet statement. “There were a lot of lessons learned, which for our submarine crews and commanders is a critical aspect of operational readiness.”

Capt. Pat Hannifin, who took the helm of the Ronald Reagan on Sept. 10, said the sailors were excited about the port visit to Guam.

“After demonstrating United States strength and resolve across the region for the last month and completing combat exercises in local waters, Reagan sailors have looked forward to visiting Guam for some time now,” he said in the Task Force 70 statement.

Sailors from the strike group



KENNETH ABBATE/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

A USS Ronald Reagan sailor speaks with local media after the aircraft carrier pulled into Guam for a port visit Monday.

planned to take part in community outreach projects, such as cleaning up Guam beaches and interacting and helping kids in schools, the statement added.

Ronald Reagan sailors also helped with recent Typhoon Mangkhut recovery efforts after the storm lashed area islands with winds exceeding 100 mph. The nation's only forward-de-

ployed aircraft carrier has been on patrol of the Indo-Pacific region since leaving its Yokosuka homeport in August.

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Marine vet known for role in ‘Aliens’ dies at 75

By MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

Marine veteran Al Matthews, 75, who gained fame as Gunnery Sgt. Apone in the movie “Aliens,” died Sunday, in Alicante, Spain.

The cause of death is under investigation, Spanish emergency services officials said.

Matthews, a Vietnam War veteran, acted in many other action films, including “Superman III” and “The Fifth Element.” He also enjoyed a career as a singer. But he is probably best remembered for his role as the tough-as-nails, cigar-chewing, Colonial Marine Gunnery Sgt. Apone in the 1986 movie “Aliens,” directed by James Cameron.

In the film, Matthews’ character, Apone, leads his Marines on a rescue mission on the



Matthews

moon LV-426, where a hive of “xenomorph” aliens had wiped out a civilian colony.

In his most famous scene, Apone bites down on his cigar as he awakes from hypersleep and starts barking orders and motivating his Marines.

“Another glorious day in the Corps,” he shouts at his groggy, unenthusiastic troops. “A day in the Corps is like a day on the farm. Every meal a banquet, every paycheck a fortune, every formation a parade. I love the Corps.”

While serving in Vietnam, Matthews was meritoriously promoted to the rank of sergeant, the first African-American Marine in

the 1st Marine Division to achieve that distinction, according to his biography in IMDb. In a documentary about the making of “Aliens,” Matthews credited his performance to his training and experience in the Marine Corps. On set, the veteran Marine would make his platoon of actors maintain weapon discipline and firearm safety standards with their prop weapons.

“Everyone’s instinct is automatically to put their fingers on the trigger, and they stopped doing that on set with me,” Matthews said in the documentary. “That’s the way I was trained, thank you very much, America. If you put your finger on the trigger when you’re talking or waving your weapon around, I’m gonna jam it down your throat.”

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State troopers find body of Alaska soldier

Associated Press

FAIRBANKS, Alaska — Alaska State Troopers say they found the body of a Fort Wainwright soldier who had been missing for nearly a week.

The Fairbanks Daily News Miner reported Alaska State Troopers were at Harding Lake on Saturday investigating a report of an apparently abandoned vehicle.

A statement by the Alaska State Troopers said the vehicle belonged to Mason Heimer. His body was found in the vehicle.

Troopers said no foul play was suspected.

Heimer’s body was sent to the Alaska State Medical Examiner’s office for an autopsy.

Heimer’s father, Doug, travelled from Texas to help local law enforcement agencies look for his 22-year-old son.

He said Heimer lived on Fort Wainwright, where he was a construction engineer and had been stationed for eight months.

Death of 2ID soldier at Humphreys investigated

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The Army is investigating after a 2nd Infantry Division soldier was found dead at Camp Humphreys earlier this week.

Pfc. Adrienne Barillas, 22, of The Woodlands, Texas, had been assigned to the 11th Combat Engineer

Battalion, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade at the base since November 2017.

Barillas — who had earned the Army Achievement Medal,

National Defense Service Medal and Army Service Ribbon — was found unresponsive Sunday and was pronounced dead by emergency personnel, the statement said.

It didn’t give more details, saying the circumstances surrounding her death were being investigated by Criminal Investigation Command.

She arrived in South Korea about six months after joining the military as a water treatment specialist, according to a statement from the 2ID public affairs office.

“Pfc. Barillas was a Warrior and a valued member of our team. We mourn her loss and pray for the comfort of her family and loved ones at this difficult time,” said Lt. Col. Chad Ramskuogler, the battalion commander.

Camp Humphreys has become the main U.S. military base in South Korea since U.S. Forces Korea and the Eighth Army moved their headquarters there as part of a long-planned relocation of most troops to areas south of Seoul.

The 2ID headquarters is ex-

pected to move to Humphreys from its longtime home near the front lines at Camp Red Cloud later this year, although many units already have relocated.

Some 28,500 U.S. servicemembers are based in South Korea.

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MILITARY

Marines opt for new ACVs instead of AAV upgrades

By WILL MORRIS
Stars and Stripes

Marine ground troops will say goodbye to the venerable amphibious assault vehicle much sooner than planned, after the Marine Corps torpedoned a program to upgrade the vehicles for future use.

The Marine Corps ordered the company contracted to perform the upgrade to halt work on Aug. 27 after the service sank \$125 million into the program.

Instead of extending the service life of the legacy vehicle, the Marines will speed up production and delivery of the new amphibious combat vehicle, Marine Corps Combat Development Command said in an email to Stars and Stripes on Tuesday.

It hasn't been determined how the remaining \$96 million in funding for the upgrade project will be spent, but Manny Pacheco, a spokesman for Marine Corps Systems Command, said one option would be to spend the money on developing the vehicle's successor.

In June, the Marines awarded a \$198 million contract option to BAE Systems to begin low-rate initial production of 30 amphibious

combat vehicles, dubbed ACV 1.1, after its design beat a prototype by SAIC in competitive trials. The contract's total value, if all options are executed, could amount to \$1.2 billion.

The first vehicles are expected to be delivered by fall 2019 to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force's 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion out of Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The "AmTrac," as the amphibious assault vehicle has been known, entered the fleet in 1972. It has been a mainstay of the Marine Corps, serving in combat operations around the world.

The AAVs will be replaced incrementally as the ACVs arrive at units, with 150 to be produced each year, up from initial projections of 125 annually. The Marine inventory will be cleared of the AAV by the mid- to late 2020s, up to 10 years earlier than originally slated, officials said Tuesday.

The cut aligns with the new National Defense Strategy and congressional guidance calling for reduced investment in legacy programs and increased focus on modernization to compete with the conventional armies of potential adversaries, Pacheco said.

"Additionally, this decision was influenced by the mobility and



DENGRIER M. BAEZ/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

U.S. Marines of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit drive an AAV-P7/A1 assault amphibious vehicle during Baltic Operations 2018 in Ustka, Poland, in June. Instead of extending the service life of the AAV, which has been in use since 1972, the Marines will speed up production of the new amphibious combat vehicle.



The SuperAV, developed by BAE Systems and Iveco Defense Vehicles for the Marine Corps' amphibious combat vehicle.

Courtesy of Marine Corps Systems Command

survivability demonstrated by the Amphibious Combat Vehicle, along with the planned lethality, which will ensure that our Marines have the firepower and survivability to succeed in the future

fight," Pacheco said.

There are 877 AAVs in service in the Marine Corps, and some 360 of them had been slated for upgraded armor, blast-mitigating seats, new engines and transmis-

sion system improvements, Marine Corps officials said. Most of the improvements came from lessons learned in fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Rather than continue to invest in a vehicle that, even in upgraded form, will not provide adequate maneuverability or survivability, the Marine Corps believes these funds would be better used elsewhere to support modernization initiatives across the force," Pacheco said.

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Report: China denies port call in Hong Kong

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

Beijing has denied a U.S. port visit to Hong Kong amid trade tensions and sanctions, according to The Wall Street Journal on Tuesday.

The USS Wasp was planning to make a port call to Hong Kong next month, but unnamed military officials told the Journal that Chinese officials rejected the Navy's request.

The denial comes a day after the U.S.'s new 10-percent tariffs on \$200 billion of annual Chinese imports went into effect. The U.S.

also recently issued sanctions on China after discovering the country had bought fighter jets and a surface-to-air missile system from Russia.

The purchases contravene a U.S. law passed in 2017 that allows the Trump administration to target Russia, Iran and others with sanctions.

The Navy regularly sends its ships on patrols through the South and East China seas to maintain freedom of navigation through the international waters that China attempts to claim. The country is militarizing reclaimed land in the seas and regularly disputes the

sovereignty of islands in the region.

China also rejected a Navy carrier strike group's request to make a Hong Kong port call in 2016, the Pentagon said at the time.

That act was rumored to be China's response to then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter and then-Philippines Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin cruising in the South China Sea on the USS Stennis strike group. China and the Philippines were disputing the sovereignty of land masses in the South China Sea at the time, Stripes reported in 2016.

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Businessman bilked US of millions for Afghanistan mine

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

A California business owner defrauded the U.S. government of nearly \$16 million by misusing an American loan intended to help develop a marble mine in western Afghanistan, a U.S. court ruled Monday.

The Overseas Private Investment Corp., a U.S. government agency that promotes foreign investment, loaned Azam Doost \$15.8 million in 2010 for his

company, Equity Capital Mining LLC, which was to develop, maintain and operate the mine, according to a Justice Department statement.

Doost and others transferred money from the OPIC loan to personal accounts, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia was told, and then claimed not to have enough money to make the loan payments, eventually defaulting.

Doost told OPIC that he was not

affiliated with any of the vendors helping with the project, "when in fact he had financial relationships with several of them," the Justice Department said.

His business partner was linked to some of the vendors' bank accounts, and after OPIC funds were deposited into them, "significant amounts" of money were transferred to companies and individuals with whom Doost was associated, or to pay off Doost's debts, according to the

Justice Department.

A jury found Doost, who was arrested at the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport in June, guilty of three counts of major fraud against the United States, eight counts of wire fraud, four counts of false statements on loan applications or extensions and five counts of money laundering.

He's scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 14.

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MILITARY

Admiral: Links to 'Fat Leonard' are in the past

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES
AND COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Vice Adm. Craig S. Fallor, who has been nominated as commander for U.S. Southern Command, told a panel of senators on Tuesday that any questionable ties to the so-called "Fat Leonard" case are behind him.

Fallor, a 1983 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy who has served as the senior military assistant to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis since January 2017, made the comments during a joint nomination hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

On Monday, The Washington Post reported Fallor accepted dinners from Leonard Glenn Francis, the infamous defense contractor from Singapore known as "Fat Leonard" who confessed to bribing dozens of U.S. Navy officials with expensive gifts, wild parties and prostitutes.

On Tuesday, Fallor was adamant he didn't have nefarious contacts with Francis' affiliated companies, such as Glenn Defense Marine Asia or Glenn Marine Group. The Navy also had found no fault in his actions.

"After a lengthy and thorough investigation by several different law enforcement organizations, I was cleared of all wrongdoing," Fallor said. "I've never solicited, accepted or asked for a gift from Glenn Marine Defense and every decision I made, even I attended, I had had ethics counsel review."

But the Fat Leonard report was a cloud over Fallor's nomination Tuesday, and lawmakers appeared eager to hear from him about the scandal.

"I know you are prepared to address comments that were raised recently in the press, which I think are important to get before the committee," Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., ranking Democrat for the Senate Armed Services Committee, said, apparently referencing the Fat Leonard case. "There are certain allegations that have arisen with respect with your participation. But my understanding is that they've all been fully investigated, ... you've been exonerated from any culpability."

Fallor's service includes commanding the destroyer USS Stethers and the cruiser USS Shiloh. He later commanded Carrier Strike Group 3 and has supported operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Fallor's other assignments include serving as an assistant to the U.S. Pacific command and U.S. Central Command chiefs, and later as director of operations



Adm. Craig S. Fallor

for Central Command.

"Admiral Fallor, you have been nominated to lead our forces in Southern Command at a time of increasing regional concerns, with instability on the rise and Venezuela potentially on the brink of collapse," said Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. "The National Defense Strategy identifies protecting the homeland and sustaining American advantages in the Western Hemisphere as key priorities. You will be on the frontlines of that work. Combating illicit networks smuggling drugs, people, weapons and money will be even more difficult in a theater that lacks sufficient resourcing."

Inhofe was leading his first official hearing as chairman of the committee on Tuesday, following the death of Sen. John McCain, the Arizona Republican who died Aug. 25 following a 13-month battle with brain cancer.

Reed seemed to agree with Inhofe that Fallor would have fewer resources to take on an extensive list of demands.

"You will be facing a different set of challenges with a much smaller pool of resources, given our focus on near-peer competition with Russia and China," Reed said. "At the same time, the issue sets that you face are no less challenging, or compelling, especially given the current opioid crisis in the United States. You will play a critical role in the whole-of-government effort to curb the influx of law threatening narcotics into the United States."

Fallor told lawmakers that he was ready to meet the challenge.

"My plain and simple message to our friends in the region: the United States is a reliable and trustworthy security partner," he said. "Our commitment is unwavering."

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JOE GONMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

Gen. Robert B. Abrams, nominee to serve as the next commander of U.N. Command, Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea, shakes hands Tuesday with Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., before Abrams' Senate Armed Services Committee confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill. At center is Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich.

Abrams: Nominee lauds temporary pause of exercise with South Korea during hearing

FROM FRONT PAGE

"I know from my 36-plus years of service about what a shelf life is of readiness of our forces, to be able to conduct certain activities. But I need to apply that judgment based on what I assess when I get on the ground."

Abrams, who has commanded U.S. Army Forces Command since August 2015, was nominated this year to command U.S. Forces Korea, replacing Gen. Vincent Brooks, who is departing the post after two years.

Abrams has been vocal that a pause in the joint exercises on the Korean Peninsula could eventually hurt readiness.

"I think that there was certainly degradation to the readiness of the force for the combined forces. That's a key exercise to maintain continuity and to continue to practice our interoperability," Abrams said of the pause. "And so there was a slight deviation, but I have great confidence" in the mitigation plan until the next series of exercises are planned.

Abrams said he has seen some of the mitigation plan, which includes participation at smaller training exercises, but not at the same scope of the large-scale ones.

Following the June 12 summit in Singapore, Trump stunned U.S. lawmakers, allies and Pentagon officials with an announcement halting military exercises with U.S. ally South Korea.

The United States and South Korea conduct two major sets of military exercises each year — Foal Eagle and Key Resolve in the spring and Ulchi Freedom Guardian, which was slated for August. They also held smaller training exercises throughout the year.

While tensions on the Korean Peninsula have been reduced since the Singapore summit, "the situation remains precarious and dangerous," Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., ranking Democrat for the Senate Armed Services Committee, told Abrams. "Despite President Trump's assertions to the contrary, there remains a significant military threat to the United States and its allies."

Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., questioned Abrams on how long it could take for the lack of training to have an impact on troop readiness.

"I'm sure you realize a large-scale exercise is really necessary in order to fully rehearse these plans," Peters said. But "how long and how many cycles of exercises can be skipped before you really start seeing a significant decline in readiness?"

Abrams, a 1982 West Point graduate who was commissioned as an armor officer and has commanded troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, referred

Peters to his response that he needed to be on the ground to know.

He also lauded the pause, for now.

"I think the suspension of the exercise this past August and September, I would say was a prudent risk if we're willing to make the effort to change the relationship with [North Korea]," Abrams said earlier in the hearing. "Something has to adjust in my view to be able to start to build trust and confidence as we move forward in the relationship."

Abrams has led Army Forces Command, the largest organization in the service, since August 2015 and in that role is responsible for ensuring combat soldiers are trained and prepared to deploy.

Abrams' other previous assignments included serving as the senior military adviser to then-Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel. He commanded the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, including a deployment to Afghanistan. Before that, he commanded the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

"General Abrams, you have been nominated to lead our forces in Korea at a time of critical importance to our national security when it comes to North Korea," said Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., who was leading his first official hearing Tuesday as chairman of the Armed Services Committee, following Sen. John McCain, the Arizona Republican who died in August following a 13-month battle with brain cancer.

Abrams is the third member of his immediate family to become a four-star Army general. His father was Creighton Abrams Jr., who commanded all American forces in Vietnam and later served as the Army's chief of staff. His brother John Abrams, who died in August, commanded the Army's Training and Doctrine Command before retiring in 2002. Another of Abrams' brothers, Creighton Abrams III, attained the rank of brigadier general in the Army.

Recently, Abrams made headlines for his role in serving as the convening authority over then-Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's court-martial in the fall on desertion and misbehavior charges. In June, Abrams approved Bergdahl's sentence handed down in November of a dishonorable discharge, reduction in rank to private, and forfeiture of \$10,000 in pay after the soldier pleaded guilty, admitting he left his post in Afghanistan in 2009 before being captured by the Taliban.

Abrams is well known in the Army for his use of Twitter to interact with soldiers on a range of issues.

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NATION

Trump: Tense moments during president's UN address

FROM FRONT PAGE

Trump seized his opportunity to assert American independence from the international body. He was unapologetic about his decisions to engage with the erstwhile pariah North Korea, remove the U.S. from the international Iran nuclear accord and object to U.N. programs he believes are contrary to American interests.

"We reject the ideology of globalism and we embrace the doctrine of patriotism," Trump said.

He referenced a long list of U.N. initiatives, from the International Criminal Court to the Human Rights Council, that his administration is working to undermine.

"As far as America is concerned, the ICC has no jurisdiction, no legitimacy and no authority," he said. The U.S. is boycotting the Human Rights Council, arguing it overlooks abuses by some and serves as a venue for anti-American and anti-Israeli action.

Trump's denunciation of globalism drew murmurs from the room that stands as the very embodiment of the notion.

Other tense moments included his criticism of Germany's pursuit of a direct energy pipeline from Russia, which drew a dismissive headshake from a member of the U.S. ally's delegation. His mention of the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar all in one breath, was received by stone-faced Saudi officials. The UAE and Saudi Arabia have been boycotting Doha since last year as part of a political dispute tearing apart the typically clubby Gulf Arab nations.

The laughter in the first moments of the address evoked a campaign line Trump frequently deployed against his predecessor Barack Obama — who embraced international engagement — suggesting that due to weak American leadership, "the world is laughing at us."

In 2014, Trump tweeted "We need a



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump delivers a speech Tuesday to the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. Headquarters.

President who isn't a laughing stock to the entire world. We need a truly great leader, a genius at strategy and winning. Respect!"

In addition to the keynote speech, Trump is to chair a meeting of the U.N. Security Council on the topic of countering nuclear proliferation on Wednesday. His four days of choreographed foreign affairs were to stand in contrast to a presidency sometimes defined by disorder.

Appearances on the global stage tend to elevate the stature of presidents both abroad and at home. But even before his arrival for the annual gathering of world leaders and diplomats, the desired image was

being overshadowed at home by domestic political troubles, with Trump forced to confront the salacious and embarrassing.

The fate of his second Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, was cast into fresh doubt over the weekend amid a second allegation of sexual misconduct, which Kavanaugh denies.

Drama also swirled Monday around the status of his deputy attorney general. Rod Rosenstein was reported last week to have floated the idea of secretly recording Trump last year and to have raised the idea of using the 25th Amendment to remove Trump from office. The man over-seeing special counsel Robert Mueller's

Trump-Russia probe and a frequent target of Trump's ire offered to resign and perhaps expected Monday to be fired. He received a stay of punishment at least until Thursday, when he is to meet with Trump at the White House.

With cable news chyrons flashing breathless updates about both Beltway dramas, news of Trump's foreign policy moves from the U.N., led by a new trade deal with South Korea, struggled to break through and disappointed White House aides.

A year ago, Trump stood at the international rostrum and derided the North Korean leader as "Little Rocket Man" and threatened to "totally destroy North Korea."

"It was a different world," Trump said Monday of his one-time moniker for Kim Jong Un. "That was a dangerous time. This is one year later, a much different time."

Trump praised Kim as "very open" and "terrific," despite the sluggish pace of progress toward denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in delivered a personal message to Trump from Kim after their inter-Korean talks last week in Pyongyang.

"You are the only person who can solve this problem," Moon said to Trump, relaying Kim's words.

The president said the location for a second summit with Kim is still to be determined, but officials have said Trump is holding out hope it could take place on American soil. Such a move would present a complex political and logistical challenge for the North Korean leader. Trump has often fondly invoked the Singapore summit, a made-for-TV event that attracted the world's media attention and largely received positive marks from cable pundits.

Reviews that were not repeated for his summit with Russia's Vladimir Putin in Helsinki the following month.

Wilkie set for first committee hearing since taking over VA

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Robert Wilkie is slated to appear before lawmakers this week for the first time since he took over as secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs two months ago.

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee scheduled a hearing, "State of the VA: a 60 Day Report," for Wednesday afternoon, where senators are expected to ask Wilkie about his plans for implementing several major, congressionally mandated reforms.

Wilkie, a former Pentagon official, was sworn in June 30 after months of political infighting under former VA Secretary David Shulkin. His dismissal this spring led to an exodus of other VA leaders.

Veterans groups are looking to Wilkie to bring stability to the embattled agency, and they expect to hear Wednesday how he plans to do it.

"I think he's really walked into a tough situation," said Bob Wallace, executive director of Veterans of Foreign Wars. "He's really got a full plate in front of him, but I think he's capable of meeting the challenge. I think he's the right person at the right time for the VA."

There are a few issues Wilkie is likely to be asked about.

■ Implementing the VA Mission Act.

Chavin Nuntavong, a director with the American Legion, said Wilkie has "huge undertakings" to tackle at the VA. The biggest could be implementing the VA Mission Act, a \$52 billion, far-reaching bill

approved in June that overhauls the VA's private-sector care system and extends benefits to more veteran caregivers.

Most of what's in the Mission Act is supposed to be implemented by June 2019, but there are already concerns about whether the VA will meet that goal.

The Mission Act outlined dozens of deadlines for the VA to submit progress reports to Congress. Three reports were due Sept. 4. Of those, there were several days late and one still hadn't been submitted as of Tuesday, according to the office of Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., the ranking Democrat on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

The missing report pertains to the VA's progress with extending benefits to veteran caregivers. The Mission Act mandates that the VA provide benefits, such as monthly stipends, health care and medical training, to caregivers of veterans injured before May 7, 1975.

"VA needs to be hitting these early milestones if it's going to meet the later ones," Tester said at a Sept. 5 hearing. "It needs to do better."

Concerned Veterans for America, a conservative advocacy group, has also expressed concern about the VA meeting the deadlines, particularly those regarding the new program for private-sector medical care.

"It's important for the VA to meet these deadlines to show that one, they're taking this seriously, and two, they're going to be transparent about it and show they can be trusted," said Dan Caldwell, executive director of CVA. "If they can't meet a dead-

line on a report for Congress, how can they be trusted to run the whole program?"

The Mission Act does away with the Veterans Choice program, which was created in 2014 to allow some veterans to receive medical care in the private sector, but only when they live more than 40 miles driving distance from a VA facility or their wait for a VA appointment would be more than 30 days.

Some claim the Choice program was implemented hastily, and many veterans thought the rules were too rigid. Under the Mission Act, Choice expires in June, and a new system is supposed to take its place.

The new law gives the VA secretary broad authority to create rules for when veterans can go into the private sector. In early October, the VA is supposed to report to Congress about its progress creating those rules.

■ Overhaul of electronic health records.

Wilkie is also likely to hear questions about a massive project to overhaul the VA's electronic health records.

In May, the VA signed a 10-year, \$10 billion contract with Cerner Corp. in Kansas City, Mo., to replace its antiquated electronic health record system — a project intended to allow veterans to track their care through the VA, Department of Defense and private medical providers.

The fiscal 2019 budget approved by Congress last week included \$1 billion to start the process.

Previous efforts to overhaul the system have failed, leading veterans groups and Congress to call for intense oversight of

the project. The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs established a new subcommittee to oversee it.

"If successful, it will be one of the linchpins of a more responsive, agile and efficient VA," said Rep. Jim Banks, R-Ind., chairman of the new subcommittee, speaking at its first hearing this month. "If mismanaged, I fear a daunting and disappointing setback. Far too often we only take an interest in a government project when it has already become a public scandal. This time must be different."

There have been some early concerns because of the unexpected departure of Genevieve Morris, who was selected to lead it. She resigned in August, citing differences with VA leadership.

■ Vacancies in health care.

Under orders from Congress, the VA released new data this month that showed more than 45,000 job vacancies — meaning about one in 10 jobs is unfilled.

Most of those are within the VA health care system, where there were 40,456 vacancies as of June 30.

As the VA works to expand its private-sector care program, some veterans groups are concerned about eroding resources toward VA health care. Federal unions have also been protesting the vacancies, which they argue is a concerted effort by President Donald Trump's administration to weaken the VA.

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NATION

GOP ramps up Kavanaugh nomination fight

By ALAN FRAM and LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Brett Kavanaugh says he won't let "false accusations drive me out of this process" as he, President Donald Trump and top Republicans mount an aggressive drive to rally the public and GOP senators behind his shaky Supreme Court nomination.

Trump and Republican leaders accused Democrats on Monday of a smear campaign by using accusations by two women of sexual misconduct by Kavanaugh in the 1980s to try scuttling his Senate confirmation. There were no immediate indications that the emergence of a second accuser had fatally wounded Kavanaugh's prospects, but the nominee took the unusual step of defending himself in a television interview that underscored the GOP's new-found combative nature.

Kavanaugh, 53, said on the conservative-friendly Fox News Channel that he wasn't questioning that his initial accuser, psychology professor Christine Blasey Ford, may have been sexually assaulted in her life. But he added, "What I know is I've never sexually assaulted anyone, a remarkable assertion for a nominee to the nation's highest court."

Kavanaugh's TV appearance came three days before a crucial Senate Judiciary Committee hearing at which he and his chief accuser, Christine Blasey Ford, were slated to testify. That session loomed as a do-or-die wild card for Kavanaugh in which a split-second facial expression, a tear or a choice of words could prove decisive.

On Monday, Trump called the accusations among "the single most unfair, unjust things to happen to a candidate for anything." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., angrily accused Democrats of slinging "all the mud they could make manufacture" and promised a full Senate



HEATHER KHALIFA, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/AP

A crowd in Philadelphia gathers by the city hall Monday for a walkout in solidarity with Christine Blasey Ford, who accused Brett Kavanaugh of sexual assault.

vote soon, but specified no date.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York retorted that if McConnell believed the allegations were a smear, "why don't you call for an FBI investigation?" He accused Republicans of "a rush job to avoid the truth."

The similar wording and arguments that Republicans used suggested a concerted effort to undermine the women's claims and portray an image of unity among GOP senators while pressing toward a confirmation vote.

Despite the forceful rhetoric by Kavanaugh and his GOP supporters, it remained unclear how three moderate Republicans

— Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, Arizona's Jeff Flake and Alaska's Lisa Murkowski — would react to the latest accusation. With the GOP's Senate control hanging on a razor-thin 51-49 margin, defections by any two Republican senators would seal his fate if all Democrats vote "no."

Collins said she remained undecided about Kavanaugh, a judge on the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals.

Proceeding with Kavanaugh seems to give Republicans their best shot at filling the Supreme Court vacancy — and giving the court an increasingly conservative tilt — before November's elections, when GOP Senate control is in play.

Even if Republicans lose their Senate majority, they could still have time to confirm a nominee in a lame-duck session, but the GOP hasn't indicated that is under consideration. Delaying Kavanaugh's confirmation could allow time for doubts about him to take root or any fresh accusations to emerge.

Pushing forward with Kavanaugh has its own risks, besides an embarrassing defeat for Trump and the GOP. His nomination and the claims of sexual misconduct have stirred up women and liberal voters whose antipathy to Republicans has already been heightened by Trump's policies and his own fraught history of alleged sexual transgressions.

During the Fox interview, Kavanaugh said that while there were high school parties with beer and he wasn't perfect, "I'm a good person. I've led a good life." He said he'd never done anything like the episodes his accusers have described and said he didn't have sexual intercourse until "many years" after high school.

"I'm not going to let false accusations drive me out of this process. I have faith in God and I have faith in the fairness of the American people," he said.

On Sunday, The New Yorker magazine reported that Deborah Ramirez described a 1980s, alcohol-heavy Yale dormitory party at which she said Kavanaugh exposed himself, placed his penis in her face and caused her to touch it without her consent. Ford has said Kavanaugh tried removing her clothes and covered her mouth to prevent screams after he pinned her on a bed during a high school party.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Tuesday "we would be open" to having Ramirez testify before the same Judiciary Committee hearing at which Ford and Kavanaugh are scheduled to appear Thursday.

Rosenstein's job to be topic of meeting with the president

By ZEKE MILLER and ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After a long weekend spent wondering if he should resign or would be fired, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein still has his job — for now.

President Donald Trump gave Rosenstein a three-day reprieve pending their face-to-face White House showdown on Thursday. That's when the man who oversees the Trump-Russia investigation will respond to reports that he had discussed secretly recording the president and possibly using constitutional procedures to remove him from office.

The revelation that Rosenstein last year had broached the idea of taping the president touched off a dramatic weekend of conversations with the White House in which he offered to one official to resign and confided to another that he was considering doing so, according to two people familiar with the discussions who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Even as he took issue with the reports, Rosenstein arrived at the White House on Monday expecting to be fired, according to another person who spoke on condition of anonymity. Instead, after he met with chief of staff John Kelly and spoke by phone to Trump himself, questions about his future were effectively tabled until the personal meeting on Thursday.

White House spokespeople Sarah Huckabee Sanders said on ABC's "Good Morning America" on Tuesday that Trump has "confidence in the system"



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein leaves the White House in Washington on Monday.

but left unclear what would happen when the two men meet.

The position of deputy attorney general is ordinarily a relatively low-visibility one in Washington, but Rosenstein has assumed outsized significance given his appointment of special counsel Robert Mueller to investigate potential ties between Russia and Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

Any firing or resignation spells immediate uncertainty for an investigation that Rosenstein oversees and would place that responsibility in the hands of a replacement who Democrats fear would be less respectful of Mueller's independence and mandate. Even some congressional Republicans and Trump aides have warned for months against firing Rosenstein for fear that it could lead to impeachment.

The commotion about Rosenstein's future adds to the turmoil rolling the administration, just six weeks before midterm elections with control of Congress at stake.

Trump: No statehood for PR while critics in office

By KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Monday declared himself an "absolute no" on statehood for Puerto Rico as long as critics such as San Juan's mayor remain in office, the latest broadside in his feud with members of the U.S. territory's leadership.

Trump lobbed fresh broadsides at San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz, a critic of his administration's response to hurricanes on the island last year, during a radio interview with Fox News' Geraldo Rivera that aired Monday.

"With the mayor of San Juan as bad as she is and as incompetent as she is, Puerto Rico shouldn't be talking about statehood until they get some people that really know what they're doing," Trump said in an interview with Rivera's show on Cleveland's WTAM radio.

Trump said that when "you have good leadership," statehood for Puerto Rico could be "something they talk about. With people like that involved in Puerto Rico, I would be an absolute no."

Gov. Ricardo Rosselló, an advocate of statehood for the island,

said Trump's remarks had trivialized the statehood process because of political differences.

"The president said he is not in favor of statehood for the people of Puerto Rico based on a personal feud with a local mayor. This is an insensitive, disrespectful comment to over 3 million Americans who live in the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico," Rosselló said.

He also questioned how the president of the United States could be at the U.N. General Assembly promoting democracy around the world while "in his own home there is the oldest and most populated colonial system in the world."

The San Juan mayor dismissed Trump's comments about statehood in an Associated Press interview, calling it just another effort to avoid responsibility for his administration's "negligence" in its widely criticized response to last year's Hurricane Maria. "He looks for any excuse to divert attention," she said.

Trump's position on statehood for the island puts him at odds with the Republican Party's 2016 platform during its national convention, in which it declared support for Puerto Rican statehood.

NATION

Vets running as Democrats pose dilemma for the GOP

By KATIE GLUECK

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — One Republican ad questioned a combat soldier's commitment to helping other veterans. Another struck a sinister tone in referencing a veteran's Marine Corps T-shirt. And in yet another congressional district, the GOP candidate implied that ideas don't matter in the military, prompting backlash from a major veterans-related group.

Running by attacking veterans for their service runs an incredible risk of voter backlash.

In the home stretch of a brutal 2018 congressional campaign season, some Republicans — long accustomed to the support of national security-focused voters — are struggling to respond to the unusually large number of military veterans running as Democrats in districts from Kentucky to Maine.

They are grasping for ways to talk about those contenders without appearing dismissive of their service — and without opening up more avenues for their opponents to highlight personal stories of heroism, a challenging balance in some of the most high-profile House races in the country.

"It doesn't appear that Republicans know how to run against our candidates," charged Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman Ben Ray Lujan in a recent conversation with reporters. He was referencing the kind of messaging that appeared in an ad from Congressional Leadership Fund, the House GOP leadership-aligned super PAC, accusing Democratic candidate and combat veteran Jason Crow of truancy on a state veterans' board and of having "turned his back on Colorado's veterans."

Local independent fact-checkers called the message "misleading" and one intoned, "Shame on them." It all quickly became fodder for a new Crow ad, an opportunity to remind viewers — through the words of the fact-checkers — of his biography. His opponent, Republican Rep. Mike Coffman, is also a combat veteran.

"To say he failed to advocate for veterans is simply false," says the Denver CBS affiliate's fact-check, which plays in the Crow ad. The correspondent continues, "Crow is not only a combat veteran himself, he was awarded a Bronze Star for heroic service."

Difficult dynamic

Handing an opponent's military service is a delicate issue that candidates in both parties confront every cycle, and in both Democratic and Republican primaries earlier this year, several veteran candidates said that they had their service minimized or dismissed by opponents in both of their respec-

tive parties.

But in the final weeks of the general election, managing that dynamic is especially pressing for Republicans, who are defending a long list of competitive House districts in a tough political environment, making the need for hard-hitting attacks more pressing. This unfolds as Democrats embrace a significant number of veteran

candidates in critical battleground districts — and many of them are running heavily biography-driven campaigns.

"Voters range from dislike, distrust or disgust at most institutions in America today, with the exception of the military," said Jesse Ferguson, a Democratic strategist and former top official at the DCCC.

"Running by attacking veterans for their service runs an incredible risk of voter backlash."

The GOP responds this cycle have in fact been wide-ranging. There were some provocative Crow spots — which CLF maintains don't directly question his service — and Rep. Bruce Poliquin of Maine ran an ad that said of his Democratic opponent, "Who is the Jared Golden behind this T-shirt? A radical, liberal politician." The shirt was a U.S. Marine Corps T-shirt. (A spokesman for Poliquin's campaign didn't respond to several emails asking to talk for the story.) But there was also a CLF ad with a much different tone: a two-time Purple Heart veteran draws, in a spot aimed at voters in Kentucky's 6th District, "We can respect Amy McGrath's service but we don't have to give Pelosi another vote in Washington."

The organization released another ad with a similar approach on Friday, featuring a veteran speaking out against Crow.

Others, like Republican Carol Miller, who is running in a West Virginia congressional district against Democratic Army veteran Richard Ojeda, have also tapped veterans to prosecute their case.

Yet touting their own support for veterans doesn't always inoculate candidates running against opponents with military service backgrounds.

Rep. Andy Barr of Kentucky, who is facing McGrath in a competitive race, has sought to play up his own pro-veteran bona fides. But he has faced blowback for sharper remarks he's made about her service.

Miller was criticized by Democrats for releasing an ad about Ojeda on Sept. 11. And Republicans have received pushback for referencing the personnel file — which was released improperly by the U.S. Postal Service — of former CIA officer Abigail St. Gerger, a Democrat running in Virginia.

And now, those Democratic candi-

GOP: Messaging works

Republicans argue that the various messaging strategies, even the harder-edged ones, haven't backfired at all. To the contrary, they say, they've forced Democrats to spend time and resources responding, and those issues are fair game anyway, especially in races where candidates are making biography central to their campaigns.

"They're whining to distract from risky records that would place veterans and families in jeopardy," said CLF communications director Courtney Alexander, stressing that in the case of the Crow ad, the criticism was of his attendance on a veterans-related board, not of his actual service.

Tucker Martin, a Virginia-based communications consultant with a background in GOP politics, said that the successful campaigns will



Courtesy of Amy McGrath for Congress

Amy McGrath is running for Congress as a Democrat in Kentucky's 6th District. She is one of many military veterans running against Republicans in districts from Kentucky to Maine.

"separate bio from the issues."

"A huge mistake would be if anyone ever impugned someone's public service, that's an unforgotten error," he said. "Be respectful of someone's background, then talk about issues in the race. I think most campaigns can walk that fine line."

In Kentucky's 6th District, McGrath's opponent, Barr, has been accused of being tone deaf. Over the summer, he told The New York Times, "We both served our country. I've served in a position where ideas matter. My opponent has served her country in the military,

where execution matters."

With Honor, a super PAC that boosts veteran candidates across political parties, demanded an apology. A Barr spokesperson did not respond to requests for comment for this story.

"Some of his comments have been frankly insensitive to veterans," said With Honor representative Ellen Zeng. The organization, which backs McGrath, is on air with ads in Barr's district. His comments in the Times article are "offensive, regardless of whether it's being said by a Democrat or a Republican."

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NATION

Cosby sentenced to 3-10 years in prison

By MARYCLAIRE DALE
AND MICHAEL R. SISK
Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — His Hollywood career and good-guy image in ruins, an 81-year-old Bill Cosby was sentenced Tuesday to three to 10 years behind bars for drugging and sexually assaulting a woman, becoming the first celebrity of the #MeToo era to be sent to prison.

The punishment all but completed the dizzying, late-in-life fall for the comedian, former TV star and breaker of racial barriers.

"It is time for justice. Mr. Cosby, this has all circled back to you. The time has come," Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill said. He quoted from victim Andrea Constand's own statement to the court, in which she said Cosby took her "beautiful, young spirit and crushed it."

Cosby declined the opportunity to address the court before the sentence came down.

The punishment came at the end of a two-day hearing at which the judge de-

clared Cosby a "sexually violent predator" — a modern-day scarlet letter that subjects him to monthly counseling for the rest of his life and requires that neighbors and schools be notified of his whereabouts.

The comic once known as America's Dad for his role on the top-rated "Cosby Show" in the 1980s was convicted in April of violating Constand, Temple University women's basketball administrator, at his suburban Philadelphia estate in 2004.

Cosby faced a sentence of anywhere from probation to 10 years in prison. His lawyers asked for house arrest, saying Cosby — who is legally blind — is too old and vulnerable to do time in prison. Prosecutors asked for five to 10 years behind bars, saying he could still pose a threat to women.

Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele rejected the notion that Cosby's age and infirmity entitle him to mercy. "He was good at hiding this for a long time. He had at suppressing this for a long time. So it's taken a long time to get there," Steele said.

The Cosby case "really raised aware-

ness of the pervasiveness of ... sexual misconduct against subordinates and against women of relatively less power," said Daniel Filler, dean of Drexel University's law school. "For jurors, I think it's inherently changed the credibility of the accusers."

In the years since Constand first went to authorities in 2005, more than 60 women have accused Cosby of sexual misconduct, though none of those claims have led to criminal charges.

The judge ruled on Cosby's "sexually violent predator" status after a psychologist for the state testified that the entertainer appears to have a mental disorder that gives him an uncontrollable urge to have sex with women without their consent. When the ruling came down, a woman in the courtroom shot her fist into the air and whispered, "Yessss!"

In a statement submitted to the court and released Tuesday, Constand, now 45, said she has had to cope with years of anxiety and self-doubt. She said she now lives alone with her two dogs and has trouble trusting people.

"When the sexual assault happened, I

was a young woman brimming with confidence and looking forward to a future bright with possibilities," she wrote in her five-page statement. "Now, almost 15 years later, I'm a middle-aged woman who's been stuck in a holding pattern for most of her adult life, unable to heal fully or to move forward."

She also wrote of Cosby: "We may never know the full extent of his double life as a sexual predator, but his decades-long reign of terror as a serial rapist is over."

Constand went to police a year after waking up in a fog at Cosby's gated estate, her clothes askew, only to have the district attorney pass on the case.

Another district attorney reopened the file a decade later and charged the TV star after stand-up comic Hannibal Buress' riff about Cosby being a rapist prompted more accusers to come forward and after a federal judge, acting on a request from The Associated Press, unsealed some of Cosby's startling, decade-old testimony in Constand's related civil suit.

Judge appears likely to toss Stormy Daniels' defamation lawsuit

By BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A federal judge appeared poised Monday to toss out a defamation lawsuit against President Donald Trump by porn actress Stormy Daniels.

Judge S. James Otero said in U.S. District Court that a tweet the president wrote in April appears to be "rhetorical hyperbole" and speech protected under the First Amendment.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, sued Trump in April after he said a composite sketch of a man she said threatened her in 2011 to keep quiet about an alleged affair with the real estate mogul was a "con job."

Trump tweeted that the man was "nonexistent" and that Daniels was playing the "fake news media for fools." He retweeted a side-by-side photo comparing the sketch with a photo of Daniels' husband.

Otero said he would rule later, but that Trump's statement seemed like an opinion and speech protected under the First Amendment.

"To allow the complaint to go forward and to have one consider this to be defamatory in the context it was made would have a chilling effect," Ottero said.

Attorney Ken White who blogs about the case and talks about it on the podcast "All the President's

Lawyers" said he thinks Otero wrote a tentative ruling that he would finalize and issue soon.

If Daniels' defamation case if thrown out it would be similar to a ruling by a New York state judge who dismissed a lawsuit by a political strategist who claimed her reputation was trashed when Trump falsely said she had "begged" for a campaign job and called her a "dummy" on Twitter, White said.

"The court basically said, 'It's Trump, it's Twitter, he known for throwing around insults and this can't be understood as anything other than exaggerated rhetoric,'" White said of the New York case.

Daniels' lawyer, Michael Avenatti, said outside court that he would appeal if the defamation suit was dismissed. He said it was ironic that Trump was relied on the First Amendment to shield himself from legal trouble.

"I witnessed something here today that I never thought I'd witness," Avenatti said. "That is: Donald Trump having a lawyer stand up in a federal court and espouse on his behalf the virtues and how important the First Amendment is in America. This is the same Donald Trump that has crapped all over the First Amendment and the news media for years."

Otero scheduled a hearing Dec. 31 to discuss Trump's efforts to dismiss another lawsuit by Daniels over a hush-money agreement related to their alleged affair.

Daniels sued Trump and his former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, who negotiated the deal, so she could speak publicly about her sexual tryst without fear of reprisal. Cohen had threatened to sue her for \$20 million.



The hearse carrying Justin Pratt proceeds past garbage trucks during the funeral procession to honor the sanitation worker in Grass Lake, Mich., on Sunday.

NIKOS FRAZIER, JACKSON CITIZEN PATRIOT/AP

Garbage trucks honor veteran, sanitation worker who died on job

Associated Press

GRASS LAKE, Mich. — Several garbage trucks participated in a funeral procession to honor a sanitation worker who was killed on the job in southern Michigan.

Modern Waste Systems, Enmons Service Inc. and Phelps Towing Inc. were among the companies that paid tribute to 27-year-old Justin Pratt on Sunday, The Jackson Citizen Patriot reported.

Pratt was struck by a vehicle while working from a Modern Waste refuse truck Sept. 18, according to the Columbia Township Police Department. Pratt was pinned between the two vehicles before he was taken to a

hospital, where he later died, police said.

Pratt had worked at Modern Waste for about 90 days, said company President Phil Duckham.

"He was a good person, a good employee, good family guy," Duckham said. "He was well-liked. We all appreciated the fact he was a veteran. He used his military training to make himself a great employee really quick."

Pratt served in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years after graduating from Tecumseh High School in 2009.

Modern Waste Systems contributed about half of the 30 vehicles that participated in the procession, Duckham said. The compa-

nies want to raise awareness of roadside hazards and encourage state lawmakers to create roadside worker safety laws, he said.

"We've got 85 people working right now for us at Modern Waste and we've been in business for 23 years," Duckham said. "This is the first time something like this has happened to us. We want to make it the last."

The male driver and female passenger of the vehicle that struck Pratt were transported to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, police said.

Alcohol and drugs don't appear to be a factor in the crash, police said. The driver said sunlight hindered his vision, police said.

NATION

More rain aimed for soggy SC as flooding continues

BY JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

YAUHANNAH, S.C. — The soggy remnants of Florence keep causing chaos in coastal South Carolina long after the hurricane swirled ashore, with rivers still flowing far beyond their banks and a new storm gathering more rain just offshore.

Authorities urged up to 8,000 people leave their homes in Georgetown County, on the South Carolina coast, as the Pee Dee and Waccamaw rivers overflowed with a record 10 feet of flooding reaching a crest in their communities Tuesday.

Some places along Georgetown's waterfront were predicted to flood for the first time since record keeping began before the American Revolution.

The National Hurricane Center said a broad area of low pressure about 300 miles south of Cape Hatteras, N.C., is producing showers and thunderstorms on its north side. Forecasters said it had potential to become a tropical depression Tuesday as it approached the coast, but was expected to dump rain regardless on coastal areas of North and South Carolina.

Pastor Willie Lowmire and some of his congregants initially stacked sandbags around their South Carolina church as

the hurricane approached. Then they moved the pews to higher ground. Finally, the rank black water seeped around and over the sandbags on Monday, flooding the sanctuary.

"I'm going to go one day at a time," Lowmire said as the river ruined the church he built almost 20 years ago. "Put it in the Lord's hands. My hands aren't big enough."

Ten days after Florence came ashore, the storm caused fresh chaos Monday in Yauhannah and elsewhere across South Carolina, where rivers kept rising and thousands more people were told to be ready to evacuate.

Georgetown County offered free transportation to emergency shelters Tuesday in Pawley's Island, saying pets are welcome as well as long as they're kept in crates and have food and supplies.

The economic research firm Moody's Analytics estimated that Florence has caused around \$44 billion in damage and lost output, which would make it one of the 10 costliest U.S. hurricanes. The worst disaster, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, cost \$192.2 billion in today's dollars. Last year's Hurricane Harvey cost \$133.5 billion.



JASON LEE, THE (MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.) SUN NEWS/AP

John McGarva, a Horry County firefighter, looks over his home, flooded from Hurricane Florence, in the Polo Farms neighborhood off S.C. 905, on Monday in Longs, S.C.



JEFFREY S. COLLINS/AP

Shawn Lowmire, son of Pastor Willie Lowmire of The Fellowship With Jesus Ministries, wades into water near the church in Yauhannah, S.C., on Monday.



JASON LEE, THE (MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.) SUN NEWS/AP

Maura Walbourne sits in the front of a canoe looking in at her flooded Long Avenue home in Conway, S.C., on Sunday.

Lawyer denounces firing of officer charged in neighbor's death

BY RYAN TARINELLI
Associated Press

DALLAS — The firing of a white Dallas police officer who is charged with manslaughter in the fatal shooting of her black neighbor inside his own apartment was premature and unfair, an attorney for the officer said.

Robert Rogers, who represents the former officer, Amber Guyger, said Monday night that Police Chief U. Renee Hall "bowed to pressure from anti-police groups and took action before all of the facts had been gathered and due process was afforded."

That's not the way our system of justice should work," Rogers said in his first statement since the shooting.

He called the Sept. 6 shooting that left Botham Jean, 26, dead "a tragic mistake" and said "words can never express our sorrow for the pain suffered by those who knew and loved" Jean. Rogers added that Guyger "is completely devastated by what

happened."

Court records show Guyger said she thought she had encountered a burglar inside her own home. She was arrested three days later and is currently out on bond.

Guyger's firing came the same day that Jean was being buried in his Caribbean homeland, St. Lucia. Hall dismissed the four-year veteran of the force during a hearing Monday, according to the Police Department.

A statement from police said an internal investigation concluded that on Sept. 9, Guyger "engaged in adverse conduct when she was arrested for Manslaughter." Dallas police spokesman Sgt. Warren Mitchell later said that when an officer has been arrested for a crime, "adverse conduct" is often cited in the officer's termination.

Mitchell said adverse conduct is "conduct which adversely affects the (morale) or efficiency of the Department or which has a tendency to adversely affect, lower, destroy public respect and confidence in the Department or officer."

The Jean family's attorneys, along with protesters, had been calling for Guyger to be fired since the shooting. In a statement, the attorneys said the termination is an initial victory.

"However, we are committed to seeing through the next steps of the process of a proper murder indictment, conviction and appropriate sentencing," they said in the statement.

Dallas County District Attorney Faith Johnson has said the case will be presented to a grand jury, which could decide a more serious charge than manslaughter.

During a conference call with Jean's parents and their lawyers on Sunday, Hall reported she intended to fire Guyger and explained the delay in the action, according to the family's attorneys in their statement.

There are conflicting narratives over what led up to the shooting.

Guyger told investigators that she had just ended a shift when she returned in uniform to the South Side Flats apartment complex where she lived.

She said when she put her key in the apartment door, which was unlocked and slightly ajar, it opened, according to the affidavit. Inside, the lights were off, and she saw a figure in the darkness that cast a large silhouette across the room, according to the officer's account.

Guyger said she concluded her apartment was being burglarized and gave verbal commands to the person, who ignored

them. The affidavit said she then drew her weapon and fired twice.

She called 911. Asked where she was, she returned to the front door to see she was in the wrong unit, according to the affidavit. The 911 tapes have not been released.

But according to an affidavit for a search warrant Jean "confronted the officer at the door."

After the shooting, Guyger's blood was drawn to be tested for alcohol and drugs, according to Hall. Authorities have not released results.

Lee Merritt, one of the attorneys representing the Jean family, has called into question Guyger's narrative. The lawyer has said that two independent witnesses have told him they heard knocking on the door in the hallway before the shooting.

He said one witness reported hearing a woman's voice saying, "Let me in! Let me in!"

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings said he agrees with the decision to fire Guyger.

"The swift termination of any officer who engages in misconduct that leads to the loss of innocent life is essential if the Dallas Police Department is to gain and maintain the public trust," Rawlings said in a statement.



Guyger

NATION

More state action than federal on bump stocks

BY LISA MARIE PANE
Associated Press

The gunman in the Las Vegas mass shooting was armed with 23 AR-style weapons, 14 of them fitted with "bump stocks" that allowed him to mimic fully automatic fire.

The devices were little-known before they were used in the Oct. 1 rampage, the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. And in the immediate aftermath, there were calls from a wide spectrum of lawmakers and advocates on firearms issues to have them banned.

Here's what has happened with the devices since the attack that left 58 dead:

Legislative action: In the shooting's immediate aftermath, there appeared to be a growing desire to ban the sale and possession of bump stocks, which federal authorities previously deemed legal and not subject to the same tighter restrictions reserved for fully automatic firearms.

Most notably, President Donald Trump vowed to ban the devices, which attach to the stock end of an AR-style firearm, greatly increasing the rate of fire so it mimics a fully automatic long gun.

Trump in March tweeted: "Obama Administration legalized bump stocks. BAD IDEA."



The interior of Stephen Paddock's 32nd floor room of the Mandalay Bay hotel in Las Vegas is seen after the Oct. 1, 2017 mass shooting.

As I promised, today the Department of Justice will issue the rule banning BUMP STOCKS with a mandated comment period."

The government determined in 2010 that bump stocks couldn't be regulated unless Congress changed the law.

But as with many restrictions on firearms in recent years, more action has taken place at the state level than by the federal

government.

Ten states and three cities have enacted bans on the devices. California made bump stock-style devices illegal decades ago.

At the federal level, Trump expressed support for banning the devices and directed the Justice Department to rewrite the federal regulations.

The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives this spring sought public comment on a proposal to reclassify bump stocks, but no action has been taken.

The proposed rules drew more than 35,000 comments.

The company: Slide Fire Solutions, America's largest bump stock manufacturer, closed its website in June and stopped taking orders. However, its remaining stock of the devices is now being sold by another company, RW Arms, based in Fort Worth, Texas.

The devices were originally intended to help people with disabilities and were little-known until the Las Vegas shooting.

Gun owners and enthusiasts frequently call bump stocks a novelty item. Gun dealers said very few of the devices were sold before the Las Vegas shooting, but demand soared afterward amid concern they might be banned.

Despite shootings, states return to familiar patterns on guns

BY RYAN J. FOLEY
Associated Press

Shortly after last year's shooting massacre on the Las Vegas strip, Ohio Gov. John Kasich convened a working group to explore possible reforms to state gun laws.

A Republican, Kasich appointed panel members who supported the Second Amendment and came from across the political spectrum. Their work accelerated after the Valentine's Day slaughter at a high school in Parkland, Fla.

They eventually produced a legislative package that included what Kasich called "sensible changes that should keep people safer." The legislation was introduced by a Republican lawmaker in the GOP-dominated Legislature.

It went nowhere.

Among other objections, the Republican leadership raised constitutional concerns about a provision allowing courts to order that weapons be seized from individuals showing signs of violence.

"The way we put it together, the fact that you had people on both sides of the issue — I would have thought something would have happened," Kasich said. "But the negative voices came in unison and they come strongly."

The Ohio experience is not unusual.

An Associated Press review of all firearms-related legislation passed this year, encompassing the first full state legislative sessions since the Las Vegas attack,

shows a decidedly mixed record. Gun control bills did pass in a number of states, but the year was not the national game-changer that gun-control advocates had hoped it could be.

Even in a year that included yet another mass school shooting and an unprecedented level of gun-control activism, state legislatures across the country fell back to largely predictable and partisan patterns.

"It's exactly what happened after Newtown: The anti-gun states became more anti-gun and the pro-gun states became more pro-gun," said Michael Hammond, the legislative counsel for Gun Owners of America, referring to the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut that killed 20 children and six educators.

The major exceptions were Florida and Vermont.

Both states have Republican governors and long traditions of gun ownership. Lawmakers passed sweeping legislation after the February shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School that killed 14 students and three staff members and after a foiled school shooting plot in Vermont days later.

The law signed by Florida Gov. Rick Scott banned bump stocks, raised the gun buying age to 21, imposed a three-day waiting period for purchases and authorized police to seek court orders seizing guns from individuals who are deemed threats to themselves and others.

The latter provision has already

been used hundreds of times.

But no other Republican-dominated state followed Florida's lead, the AP review found.

The Parkland shooting did slow momentum for additional gun rights bills in some Republican-led states, but others pushed forward with pro-gun policy agendas. They widened the definition of who can legally carry a weapon in public, allowed more concealed weapons in schools, churches and government buildings, and strengthened legal protections for people who claim they shot someone in self-defense.

In Tennessee, county commissioners were granted the ability to carry concealed handguns in their workplaces. Oklahoma approved a bill allowing permit holders to carry handguns while scouting. Nebraska lawmakers enacted a long-sought bill shielding all documents related to gun permits from the open records law.

In South Carolina, where a state senator was killed in the 2015 church shooting in Charleston, lawmakers rejected a simple bill requiring court clerks to enter convictions and restraining orders in a timely fashion to strip gun rights from people who have been disqualified from possessing firearms.

The most significant policy development, the review found, was the enactment of so-called "red flag laws" in eight states. Those laws allow police or relatives to seek court orders to seize guns from people who are showing signs of violence.

Action on bump stocks after Las Vegas shooting



Notable events in the U.S. involving bump stocks, the device used in last year's Las Vegas massacre: 1990: California bans "multi-burst trigger activators," which include bump stocks

Nov. 3, 2017: Massachusetts enacts ban on bump stocks

Dec. 19: Columbia, S.C., enacts ban

Jan. 15, 2018: New Jersey ban signed into law

Jan. 22: Denver City Council bans bump stocks

March 6, 2018: Washington state enacts ban

March 9: Florida enacts ban along with other gun-control measures

March 23: President Donald Trump tweets: "Obama Administration legalized bump stocks. BAD IDEA. As I promised, today the Department of Justice will issue the rule banning BUMP STOCKS with a mandated comment period."

March 26: Lincoln, Neb., enacts ban

March 29: The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives seeks public comments on a proposed change to federal regulations on bump stocks

April 11: Vermont enacts ban

April 18: Slide Fire Solutions, the leading manufacturer of bump stocks, announces it is shuttering its business and will stop taking orders as of May 20

April 24: Maryland enacts ban

May 31: Connecticut enacts ban

June 1: Rhode Island enacts ban

June 14: Delaware enacts ban

June 27: The comment period on the proposed ATF rule change closes

July 9: Hawaii enacts ban

July 27: RW Arms, a Texas-based company, announces it will start selling the leftover stock of bump stocks from Slide Fire Solutions

From The Associated Press

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Instagram co-founders resign from company

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The co-founders of Instagram are resigning their positions with the social media company without explanation.

Chief Executive Kevin Systrom said in a statement late Monday that he and Mike Krieger, Instagram's chief technical officer, plan to leave the company in the next few weeks and take time off "to explore our curiosity and creativity again."

"Mike and I are grateful for the last eight years at Instagram and six years with the Facebook team," Systrom said. "We've grown from

'Building new things requires that we step back, understand what inspires us and match that with what the world needs; that's what we plan to do.'

Kevin Systrom
Instagram chief executive

13 people to over a thousand with offices around the world, all while building products used and loved by a community of over one billion. We're now ready for our next chapter."

"Building new things requires

that we step back, understand what inspires us and match that with what the world needs; that's what we plan to do," Systrom said. "We remain excited for the future of Instagram and Facebook in the coming years as we transi-

tion from leaders to two users in a billion."

No explanation was given for their sudden departure from the photo-sharing network they founded in 2010.

Facebook bought Instagram in 2012, just before going public, at a price that seemed inconceivable at the time — \$1 billion — especially for a little-known startup with no profit. At the time Instagram was ad-free, with a loyal following of 31 million users who were all on mobile devices — still a somewhat elusive bunch for the web-born Facebook back then. Since then, the service has grown to more than

1 billion users and has of course added plenty of advertisements.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg called Systrom and Krieger "extraordinary product leaders" and said he was looking forward "to seeing what they build next."

The departures are a challenge for Facebook. Instagram has been a bright spot for the company not just because it's seen as a more uplifting place than Facebook itself, but because it is popular with teens and young people — a group Facebook has had trouble keeping around.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro (cost Sept. 26)	\$1.2092
Dollar buys (Sept. 26)	69.8270
British pound (Sept. 26)	\$1.35
Japanese yen (Sept. 26)	110.60
South Korean won (Sept. 26)	1,089.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.3151
Canada (Dollar)	1.2947
China (Yuan)	6.8698
Denmark (Krone)	6.3301
Egypt (Pound)	17.0101
Euro	\$1.1783/0.8487
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8098
Hungary (Forint)	275.37
Israel (Shekel)	3.6913
Japan (Yen)	112.84
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3027
Norway (Krone)	8.1148
Philippines (Peso)	54.29
Poland (Zloty)	3.54
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7511
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3653
South Korea (Won)	1,118.57
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9650
Thailand (Baht)	32.43
Turkey (Lira)	6.2069

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-Japan currency exchange rates, purchasing British pounds in Germany, check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

MARKET WATCH

Sept. 24, 2018

Dow Jones Industrials	-181.45
	26,562.05
Nasdaq composite	6.29
	7,993.25
Standard & Poor's 500	-10.30
	2,919.37
Russell 2000	-7.00
	1,705.32

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	1.32
3-month bill	2.18
30-year bond	3.21

Plan to rollback fuel standards gets second hearing

Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — The Trump administration's proposal to roll back national fuel economy standards was headed for its second public hearing a day after California officials and scores of speakers blasted it as a danger to the environment and public health.

The second hearing was scheduled for Tuesday in Dearborn, Mich. — a city in a region dominated by the auto industry where it could get a better reception. A major auto industry trade group said it supports annual increases in fuel efficiency, but it also said customers aren't buying more efficient cars.

"No one wins if our customers are not buying the new highly efficient products offered in our showrooms," Steve Douglas, senior director of energy and environment for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, said

in written testimony for the hearing in Fresno. "The standards must account for consumer willingness and ability to pay for newer technologies in order for all the benefits of new vehicles to be realized."

The group represents General Motors, Ford, Fiat Chrysler, Volkswagen, BMW and other automakers.

But Ford CEO Jim Hackett said in a speech last week that his company is against any freeze of the standards and favors "keeping the standard, not a rollback."

"We have plans to meet it," he said.

The proposal announced in August by President Donald Trump's administration would freeze U.S. mileage standards at levels mandated by former President Barack Obama for 2020. The standards regulate how far vehicles must travel on a gallon of

fuel.

Under the deal finalized under Obama, the standard would rise to 36 miles per gallon by 2025, 10 miles per gallon higher than the current requirement. The goal was to reduce car emissions and save people money at the pump. Trump administration officials say waiving the tougher fuel efficiency requirements would make vehicles more affordable, which would get safer cars into consumers' hands more quickly.

At Monday's hearing, California officials said the proposed rollback would damage people's health and exacerbate climate change, and they demanded the Trump administration back off.

Looming over the administration's proposal is the possibility that California, which has become a key leader on climate change as Trump has moved to dismantle Obama-era environmental rules, could set its own separate fuel

standard that could roil the auto industry.

Automakers are unanimous in favoring one standard for the whole country so they don't have to design two vehicles, one for California and the states that follow its requirements, and another for the rest of the nation.

Another hearing is planned on Wednesday in Pittsburgh.

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

NATION

As bears get bolder, Conn. seeks solution

By PAT EATON-ROBB
Associated Press

CANTON, Conn. — Tom Bradley had grown accustomed to seeing black bears walk through his Connecticut neighborhood, but this month he was alarmed to find something trying to turn a doorknob to enter his house.

He used his key fob to set off his car horn, to scare away whatever was in his garage. When he went outside, he saw a bear and two cubs that had been trying to get into his mudroom.

"I think what is happening is, the bears are learning," Bradley said. "It was sort of a step from going outside to get the garbage, to going into the garage where the cans are, and now they are moving into the homes because they have discovered that is where the food is."

Bears have been encroaching on humans in record numbers this year in Connecticut, which has seen increases in the black bear population like other nearby states and is the only that one does not allow bear hunting.

There have been 24 reports of bears breaking into homes and businesses in Connecticut this year, well above the yearly average of about six, said Paul Rego, a state wildlife biologist.

In recent months, bears have shredded a car's interior, wandered into a liquor store, even woken residents in their own bedrooms.

"We have many cases where bears have become very comfortable living close to humans and not being impressed by barking dogs and yelling people," Rego said.

Bear encounters are up in other states, as well. New York has received 1,282 nuisance bear reports this year, such as the animals getting into garbage or bird feeders, compared with 700 a

year ago, the state Department of Environmental Conservation. Officials believe drought conditions earlier this summer, which led to fewer berries, may be a factor.

But drought wasn't an issue in Connecticut, Rego said. A study last year by the University of Connecticut showed the bears are actually choosing to make their homes near people.

As the bear population grows, the animals are finding perfect living conditions in exurban areas, where there are plenty of woods but also homes every acre or two, providing access to easy food sources, said Tracy Rittenhouse, an assistant professor of wildlife ecology at UConn.

"We have this perfect mixture of forest and human houses and the bears are moving into these places," she said. "It's not people moving into where bears occur, it's bears moving into where people occur."

Bears stop by the Steve and Julie Sonlin's home in Avon several times a year and have looked into the windows, grabbed a bag of birdseed from the garage, even taken a dip in their hot tub.

"They don't seem to be aggressive," Sonlin said. "But they don't seem to be afraid. They seem to be indifferent."

When alerted to bears encroaching on homes, the Connecticut environmental department tries to dissuade the animals it captures from coming back by "hazing" them, shooting them with rubber bullets, bean bags or paint balls, and exposing them to loud noises, Rego said.

But, he said, bears are most often rewarded for living near people and seldom face a negative consequence. He would like Connecticut to open a hunting season on bears.

Recent legislation to introduce a bear hunt has failed in the Leg-



COURTESY OF JULIE SONLIN/AP

A black bear explores the yard of Steve and Julie Sonlin in Avon, Conn., in July.

islature, with opposition from animal rights groups.

Maine has the largest black bear population on the East Coast at about 36,000 animals, but the number of nuisance bear complaints in the state has held about steady, averaging about 500 per year. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife said the number of complaints usually correlates to the abundance of natural foods, such as nuts and

berries.

The state uses a popular fall hunting season to try to control the growth of the population. But Bob Humphrey, a wildlife biologist and hunter in the state, said it might be time to consider adding a spring hunt, because the bear population just keeps growing.

In Connecticut, Rego and others fear that eventually there will be attacks on humans.

Bradley said he has already wit-

nessed some close calls, such as recently when a mother bear found herself and her cubs between a neighbor's yard with a barking dog and another with a child playing in it. He alerted the child's mother, he said, and she took her child back inside the house.

"It's scary," he said. "Sooner or later, some child, some elderly person, some dog is going to walk out between a bear and her cub and it's going to be a disaster."

Virginia's prisons ban visitors from using tampons inside facilities

By TOM JACKMAN
The Washington Post

Visitors to Virginia's prison system will be prohibited from using tampons or menstrual cups inside the facilities to reduce the possibility of smuggling contraband, state corrections officials said Monday. The prisons will offer pads for use during visits.

A memo by state corrections operations chief A. David Robinson to the prison wardens said that new full-body screening systems at the prisons have "effectively captured" multiple smuggling of hidden objects on the person of staff, volunteers and

visitors," and that raised questions "about feminine hygiene products being an ideal way to conceal contraband." The new policy was first reported by the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

As a result, Robinson wrote, visitors will be notified that tampons and menstrual cups may no longer be used during visits. Women who use the items and are caught on the body-scan machine will not be allowed to visit inmates.

"There have been many instances," state corrections spokeswoman Lisa Kinney said in an email, "in which visitors have attempted to smuggle drugs into our prisons

by concealing those drugs in a body cavity, including the vagina." She said pads, which are used externally, would be offered to visitors so that tampons "don't appear as possible contraband on a body scan."

Kinney noted that "offenders in Virginia have died of drug overdoses while inside our prisons. It's our job to keep the offenders and staff as safe as we can." She said the policy was devised after consulting with the office of Attorney General Mark R. Herring.

Claire Guthrie Gastanaña, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, criticized the policy.

"Any policy that discourages visitors is," Gastanaña said, "one that should be subject to the most exacting and careful review. In addition, a policy like this one that requires those who wish to visit people who are incarcerated to set aside their dignity and health is simply unacceptable."

The ACLU called on Department of Corrections Director Harold Clarke to immediately clarify the policy and "to reverse any policy or practice that limits the visitation rights of visitors who are menstruating without regard to which hygiene product they choose to use."

NATION

Pope: Scandals driving youth from churches

By NICOLE WINFIELD
AND JARI TANNER

Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia — Pope Francis acknowledged Tuesday that the sex abuse scandals rocking the Catholic Church have outraged the faithful and are driving them away, and said the church must change its ways if it wants to keep future generations.

Francis referred directly to the crisis convulsing his papacy on the fourth and final day of his Baltic pilgrimage, which coincided with the release of a devastating new report into decades of sex abuse and cover-up in Germany.

Francis told a gathering of young people in Estonia, considered one of the least religious countries in the world, that he knew many young people felt the church had nothing to offer them and simply doesn't understand their problems today.

"They are outraged by sexual and economic scandals that do not meet with clear condemnation, by our unpreparedness to really appreciate the lives and sensibilities of the young, and simply by the passive role we assign them," he told a gathering of Catholic, Lutheran and Orthodox young people in the Kaarli Lutheran Church in the capital Tallinn.

He said the Catholic Church needs to respond to those complaints "transparently and honestly."

"We ourselves need to be converted," he said. "We have to realize that in order to stand by your side we need to change

many situations that, in the end, put you off."

It was a very public admission of the church's failures in confronting sex abuse scandals, which have roared back to the headlines recently with revelations of abuse and cover-up in the U.S., Chilean and now German church. The German bishops conference on Tuesday was releasing a report that found that some 3,677 people — more than half of them 13 or younger and nearly a third of them altar boys — were abused by clergy between 1946 and 2014.

The report, compiled by university researchers, found evidence that some files were manipulated or destroyed, many cases were not brought to justice, and that sometimes abusers were simply moved to other dioceses without the congregations being informed about their past, according to the results that leaked earlier in the German press.

The abuse scandal, which erupted in Ireland in the 1990s and subsequently Australia and the U.S., now threatens Francis' own papacy since a former Vatican ambassador accused him of rehabilitating an American cardinal who slept with seminarians. In addition, Francis badly botched a case of cover-up in Chile for which he has tried to make amends.

Francis has declined to respond to the accusations he himself covered for the U.S. cardinal, but the Vatican is expected to soon.

Francis' visit to Tallinn marked



ANDREW MEDICINI/AP

Pope Francis meets young people Tuesday at a Lutheran church in Tallinn, Estonia, on the last day of his tour of the Baltics.

the last stop in a four-day pilgrimage that also took him to Lithuania and Latvia. He aimed to encourage the Christian faith in the Baltics, which saw five decades of Soviet-imposed religious repression and state-sponsored atheism, as well as the World War II-era occupation by Nazi Germany.

Estonia is considered both one

of the most tech-advanced countries in Europe and one of the least religious societies in the world. More than half of Estonia's 1.3 million people profess no religious affiliation. The Lutheran and Russian Orthodox churches count the most followers of those who do, while 6,000 people are Catholics.

Iran video threatens regional capitals

By NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — An Iranian media outlet close to the country's hard-line Revolutionary Guard published a video Tuesday threatening the capitals of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates with missile attacks, further raising regional tensions after a weekend militant attack on a military parade in Iran.

The video tweeted and later deleted by the semi-official Fars news agency comes as Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei blamed Riyadh and Abu Dhabi for the attack in the city of Ahvaz on Saturday, which killed at least 25 people and wounded over 60.

The threat amplifies the unease felt across the greater Persian Gulf, which is seeing Iran's economy upended in the wake of America's withdrawal from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers and Saudi and Emirati forces bogged down in their yearslong war in Yemen.

Meanwhile, Iranian officials on Tuesday identified the five men who carried out the parade attack, which authorities have blamed on Arab separatists. At least two of the men identified have appeared in a video distributed by the Islamic State group in its own claim of responsibility for the Ahvaz attack. This further complicates the process of determining who exactly was behind the assault.

The Fars video shows file footage of previous ballistic missile attacks launched by the Guard, then a graphic of a sniper rifle scope homing in on Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates and Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. The video also threatened Israel.

"The era of the hit-and-run has expired," Khamenei's voice is heard in the video, the segment taken from an April speech by the supreme leader. "A heavy punishment is underway."

Fars did not say why it took the video down, but it came just before President Hassan Rouhani was to address the U.N. General Assembly later in the day.

Iran has fired its ballistic missiles twice in anger in recent years. In 2017, responding to an Israeli strike on Tehran, the Guard fired missiles striking ISIS targets in Syria. Then, earlier this month, it launched a strike on a meeting of Iranian Kurdish separatists in northern Iraq.

The Guard, a paramilitary force answerable only to Khamenei, has sole control over Iran's ballistic missile program.

Under Khamenei's orders, Iran now limits its ballistic missiles to a range of 1,240 miles, which gives Tehran the range to strike Israel, Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia and the U.S. as well as regional American military bases.

WHO head warns of Ebola spread in Congo

GENEVA — The emergencies chief for the World Health Organization says insecurity, public defiance about vaccinations and political jockeying could create a "perfect storm" leading Congo's latest Ebola outbreak to spread.

Dr. Peter Salama says the response is at a "critical juncture" in eastern North Kivu province, where the outbreak was declared nearly two months ago. Health officials have counted 150 confirmed and probable cases, including over 100 deaths. He told reporters Tuesday that overall trends in the Ebola response have been positive. But insecurity and violence, public fears about treatment options and political candidates fanning those fears have presented challenges.

Salama said such factors "may be coming together over the next weeks to months to create a potential perfect storm."

From The Associated Press

Rights group details abuses by Yemen rebels

By SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

CAIRO — An international watchdog on Tuesday accused Yemen's Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, of committing abuses including hostage taking, torture and enforced disappearances of people they hold in detention.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a statement it documented 16 cases in which Houthi authorities held people unlawfully, largely to extort money from relatives or to exchange them for prisoners held by opposing forces.

The New York-based group said Houthi officials have treated detainees brutally, often rising to the level of torture. It urged the rebels to put an end to the abuses.

"The Houthis have added profiteering to their long list of abuses and offenses against the people under their control in Yemen," Sarah Leah Whitson, HRW's Middle East director, said in the report. "Some Houthi officials are exploiting their power to turn a profit through detention, torture, and murder."

Former detainees described Houthi officers beating them and guards whipping prisoners and threatening to rape them or their family members, the

report said.

It quoted a woman whose husband was arrested by unidentified men in late 2015 as saying that he was held at a Houthi-controlled Political Security Office, a notorious intelligence agency, in the rebel-held capital, Sanaa.

"I spoke to many Houthis leaders ... but they do nothing," she was quoted as saying. The report said she paid Houthi officials about 1.5 million Yemeni riyals, or around \$6,000, over the last three years, but her husband remains detained.

Another detainee disappeared in northern Hajar province while looking for a job in 2016, HRW said. He was released a month later from Houthi detention after his family paid 100,000 riyals, around \$400, the group said.

HRW said Houthi authorities did not respond to a request for comment.

An attempt by The Associated Press to reach Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdel-Salam by phone on Tuesday was also unsuccessful.

HRW said United Arab Emirates forces, forces loyal to the UAE, and Yemeni government forces have also arbitrarily detained, tortured and forcibly disappeared scores of people in the Yemeni conflict.

WORLD

Tablets help prep Japanese preschoolers

By YURI KAGEYAMA
Associated Press

YOSHIKAWA, Japan — It's drawing time at this suburban nursery school in Japan, but instead of crayons, tiny fingers are tapping on colors on iPad screens and taking selfies. Digital schooling has arrived in this nation long known for its zealous commitment to "three R's" education. Coby Preschool, in a small town north-east of Tokyo, is among nearly 400 kindergartens and nursery schools in Japan that are using smartphone software applications called KitS designed especially for preschoolers.

That's only about 1 percent of this nation's kindergartens and nursery schools. But it's a start. Coby is helping lead a national initiative in "digital play."

Parents everywhere worry their children might fall behind, and Japan is no exception.

The government has recently made strengthening technology education national policy even as it struggles to meet its goal of supplying one digital device — computer or tablet — for every three children. With KitS, developed by Tokyo-based startup SmartEducation, children color birds and flowers that appear to come alive as three-dimensional computer graphics. Children also draw various creatures that, when captured as computer images, swim or float around in virtual landscapes.

In a recent session, children got a triangle image on their iPads and were asked to draw on it with digital colors, store that image and draw another one to create a two-screen story.

The usually shy children burst into an uproar, brainstorming happily about what the triangle might represent: a sandwich, a rice ball, a dolphin, a roof, a mountain.

The children were then encouraged to come to the front of the class and explain what they had drawn as the images were shown on a large screen.

"There is no right or wrong answer," said Akihito Minabe, the preschool principal leading the session.

The point is to nurture creativity, focus and leadership skills.



YURI KAGEYAMA/AP

Children work on a digital program at Coby Preschool in Yoshikawa, Japan, in July.

"They think on their own, they learn it's OK to think on their own, and it's fun to come up with ideas," said Minabe.

In the U.S., 98 percent of children age 8 and under have a mobile device in their homes, while 43 percent have their own tablet, according to The Genius of Play, a U.S. program that researches education and play.

That's similar to Japan, where each adult has an average of more than one smartphone and about half of preschoolers have access to a mobile device, according to Japanese government data.

In many U.S., Asian and European preschools and elementary schools, teachers use technology to present stories, music and other information. Educators are also studying children's social development through how they learn to share digital devices.

Much of what's driving the adoption of tablets in U.S. preschools is a belief, founded or not, that an early start will make kids smarter at technology, said Patricia Cantor,

a professor of early childhood education at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire.

However, early research into how tablets and apps affect learning for kids ages 2 to 5 is inconclusive.

"Touchscreen stuff is pretty intuitive. They don't need training," Cantor said.

Some studies show positive outcomes among young children using mobile devices to improve their literacy, science or math skills, but there's little research comparing tablet-assisted learning with more conventional teaching approaches, according to a review of 19 studies by Christothea Herodotou, a lecturer at The Open University in the United Kingdom.

Herodotou said it's unclear which features might help or hinder learning. Devices and apps can also be misused — for instance, to keep children occupied so teachers can do other things.

"Even if it's designed to encourage learning or exploration or curiosity, it may not

be used in that way," said Cantor. "There's so much junk out there."

Still, the target age for "digital play" is getting ever younger.

Experts have known for years that playing is how children learn, said Ken Seiter, executive vice president at The Toy Association, a nonprofit, which represents businesses that design, produce, license and deliver youth-entertainment products.

Toys can teach toddlers simple programming or use augmented reality to bring story characters digitally alive, said Seiter, whose organization spearheads The Genius of Play, a U.S.-based program that researches education and play.

Japan's classrooms tend to be more structured than in the West, with students often acting in unison as they line up, bow and chant together. Children tend to be more passive, and the emphasis is on the group rather than individuals. Youngsters, even some preschoolers, attend extracurricular cram schools.

KitS' designers have sought to make activities fun. One aim appears to be nurturing open-mindedness.

Yuhel Yamauchi, a professor of information studies at the University of Tokyo and KitS' advisor, sees practical benefits.

By the time today's 5-year-olds start work, most jobs will require computer skills. Given Japan's shrinking population, people may work into their 80s, shifting jobs several times. Digital skills are more critical than ever, he said.

Digital tools deliver the equivalents of libraries and museums at a child's fingertips, said Ron Shumsky, a child psychologist who works in Japan. That can be addictive, he cautions, and students must be taught safe and responsible "Digital citizenship," he said.

"It's so compelling it pulls you in," he said. "It keeps you wanting more."

Experts warn that staring for too long at screens can damage eyesight and deter creative thinking. It's a complex problem, since children may see their parents immersed in devices themselves.

KitS limits each session on the iPad to 15 minutes. Classes are held just 30 times a year.

Polish globe-trotter blunders into Indonesia-Papua conflict

By STEPHEN WRIGHT
Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — To the Indonesian government, the 39-year-old factory worker and globe-trotting Polish traveler is a danger to the state, a man who plotted with shadowy gunmen to foment revolt in isolated eastern jungles.

But to his supporters, Jakub Skrzypski is just an idealistic tourist with no money to his name, a man with an oddball combination of sympathies for right-wing and liberation causes. Even Indonesian police say it's unlikely Skrzypski could have arranged the arms deal they say he promised to make with rebels.

But Skrzypski, who is charged with treason, still faces up to 20 years in prison if he's found guilty. His detention was extended by 40 days on Sept. 17 as police prepare their case against him.

He was arrested in Wamena in Papua province in late August along with four Papuans who police said had ammunition and described as linked to "armed criminal groups" — the authorities' usual description of Papuan independence fighters. "The true jungle is in Papua, and I've

been there, among lizards, mosquitoes, leeches" and other stuff, Skrzypski wrote on Facebook while on the second of back-to-back trips to the region in July and August.

The case highlights Indonesia's extreme sensitivity about the low-level but long-running insurgency in the Papua region, which occupies the western half of the island of New Guinea. Though most nations recognize Indonesia's sovereignty over the territory, the Papuan independence movement has vocal sympathizers in numerous Pacific island and Western countries.

Indonesia annexed the Dutch-controlled half of the island in 1963 when the Netherlands was preparing indigenous Papuans for self-rule. Decades later, though, large areas of the mountainous jungle territory still remain outside of Jakarta's control. Police and military personnel are frequently attacked and killed by rebels, while Indonesian security forces have been accused of dozens of unlawful killings in the past decade, including targeted slayings of political activists.

Police say Skrzypski had been in contact for a "long time" with Papuan independence supporters and separatist fighters.

They say he planned to publicize their cause on social media and promised to help supply them with weapons.

"We have strong evidence that he was guilty in helping the armed criminal group in Papua," said the province's police chief, Martuani Sormin. "No one should disturb the integrity of the Unitary Republic of Indonesia, whether he is a foreigner or local. Anyone who violates the law in this country must be dealt with."

But evidence of an actual plot against the Indonesian state appears flimsy.

Photos police cited of Skrzypski with guns were taken at a recreational shooting range in Switzerland, where he has lived since 2008, said his Indonesian lawyer, Latifah Anum Siregar, and a Polish friend, Artur Sobiele.

Siregar said Skrzypski denies any wrongdoing. The case against him is "very weak," she said.

Civil society organizations have also protested his arrest and the arrest several days later of a 29-year-old Papuan student, Simon Magal, who met Skrzypski and communicated with him on Facebook.

"While Mr. Skrzypski's choices may

have been irresponsible and regrettable, his circumstances appear those of an idealistic and naive traveler and not one of a criminal," the East Timor and Indonesia Action Network and London-based rights group Tapol said in a joint statement.

They said Magal's arrest was excessive and he'd "simply been dragged in by the actions of Mr. Skrzypski."

National police spokesman Dedi Prasetyo said Skrzypski had unfettered access to an "armed criminal group" in Papua that had designated a liaison to meet and escort him on his trips to the region.

Skrzypski encouraged the group to fight against the Indonesian government and also promised weapons, but even Prasetyo acknowledged it was "very unlikely" he could do that.

"We consider this case to be quite serious because it involves a foreign national," he said.

Two friends said Skrzypski, a long-term resident of Switzerland, where he moved for economic opportunities, is an avid traveler who's fascinated by other cultures. In one online profile, he lists about 50 countries he's visited.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Heist suspect also accused of disrobing

MO SPRINGFIELD — Authorities said a man found naked last month underneath a desk at a Missouri park office is now accused of stealing a work truck at another park and shedding his clothes.

The Springfield News-Leader reported that Peter Gilbreth, 50, of Joplin, is charged with tampering with a motor vehicle and sexual misconduct in the Sept. 19 incident at Ritter Springs Park in Greene County.

Court documents say Gilbreth emerged from the stolen truck wearing only shoes and then attempted to get into a bathroom as a woman was preparing the facility for a school field trip.

Gilbreth also was arrested last month after authorities said a ranger at Prairie State Park found him naked, hiding under a desk in an office.

Stolen necklace has grandma's ashes

NY BUFFALO — A woman is asking for help from Buffalo residents to find a necklace containing the ashes of her grandmother that was stolen from her home.

University of Buffalo student Haley Lang said her grandmother died last year.

WIVB-TV reported someone broke into Lang's home last week and stole a number of items and cash from Lang and her roommates. She said everything can be replaced except the necklace, and she has posted pictures online seeking its return.

Lang said she doesn't care about punishing the thieves; she just wants her necklace back.

Odor from plant overwhelms neighbors

IA ESTHERVILLE — Residents of a northwest Iowa town say they're being overwhelmed by the stench from a nearby rendering plant.

Emmet County zoning administrator Bob Bohm said Estherville residents have filed more than 300 odor complaints against the Central Bi-Products plant, mostly since May. Emmet County Supervisor Jeff Quastad said the odor from the plant smells "like death, like rotting flesh."

The county Board of Supervisors has decided to pursue fines against the plant for violating its use permit.

Dan Hildebrandt, CEO of Farmers Union Industries, of Redwood Falls, Minn., the parent company of Central Bi-Products, told Emmet County supervisors in July the plant problems were caused in part by a fire and a management change.

Man held over drive-by paintball gun attacks

OR BEND — Authorities said a 19-year-old man was arrested in central Oregon after a series of drive-by paintball gun attacks.

Bend police said Zachary Tay-



MARK STOCKWELL, THE (ATTLEBORO, MASS.) SUN CHRONICLE/AP

Teamwork for treats

Cheerleaders from Grafton High School in Grafton, Mass., use teamwork to pick Macintosh apples at Tougass Farm in Northborough, Mass., on Sunday.

lor Richardson fired yellow and pink paintballs while cruising around town in a white Hyundai hatchback on Sept. 15 and 16.

There were at least 10 attacks reported by people who were pelted by the paintballs, including a man riding with his daughter on the back of his bicycle, an Uber driver, a walking man and two women in a vehicle.

Richardson was tracked down through witness descriptions of him and the car. He faces 25 criminal charges including unlawful use of a weapon, harassment, reckless endangerment and disorderly conduct.

Tire being pumped hits man in head, kills him

WI SPRING BOOK — Authorities in western Wisconsin said a man inflating a wagon tire was killed when the tire struck him in the head.

Dunn County sheriff's officials said the accident happened Friday morning in Spring Brook Township.

According to the sheriff's office, the man was changing the tire on a wagon and while the tire was being inflated it depressurized, and the escaping air launched the tire and rim into the man's head.

The sheriff's office said Seth Splitter, 20, of rural Elk Mound, died at the scene.

Auto shop catches fire when car crashes into it

FL TAMPA — Fire officials said a Florida auto shop erupted in flames when a vehicle crashed into it.

Tampa Fire Rescue reported multiple people called 911 early Saturday to report the fire at a Havaline Express Lube shop. The Tampa Bay Times reported that flammable liquids inside the building ignited to make the fire more intense.

The fire was under control at 4 a.m. No one was found inside, and responders could not find the driver of the vehicle.

Damage was estimated at \$800,000.

Oh, baby! Zoo rhino is pregnant, due in 2019

NY BUFFALO — The Buffalo Zoo said a new addition is coming to join its rhinos.

The zoo said Tashi, a greater one-horned rhinoceros, is pregnant and is expected to give birth in the summer of 2019.

Tashi was inseminated artificially by Suru, who makes his home at Zoo Miami.

The greater one-horned rhino was critically endangered and almost extinct until conservation efforts helped the population rebound to about 3,500 in India and Nepal.

Baby found crawling on busy road is unharmed

NJ LAKEWOOD — Authorities said a baby girl found crawling across a busy New Jersey street was unharmed after a neighbor and passing motorist came to her aid.

The child was spotted around 5 p.m. Saturday in Lakewood.

THE CENSUS

\$600

The value of cigarettes stolen from a convenience store by a Florida man

who has been sentenced to 20 years in state prison. A jury in Pensacola convicted Robert Spellman, 48, of burglary and grand theft in August. Authorities said Spellman took 10 cartons



of cigarettes from a stockroom in the store manager's office in December. He was sentenced Friday. The Pensacola News Journal reported that Spellman had 14 felony and 31 misdemeanor convictions prior to the cigarette theft, which qualified him as a habitual felony offender.

Cory Cannon, 41, of Eatontown, told the Asbury Park Press he saw the girl on Joe Parker Road and initially thought she was a toy. When he saw the child moving, he got out of his car to stop traffic.

A neighbor got the baby and returned the child to her home. Authorities said the baby may have left through a door that was left open by an older sibling.

Man gets 20 years for bat attack on athlete

MT MISSOULA — A Missoula man who attacked a Special Olympics athlete with a baseball bat, causing a severe head injury, has been sentenced to 20 years in prison with eight years suspended.

KTMF-TV reported Paul Ekstedt was sentenced Friday for the June 14 attack on Gary Fuller.

Police said a witness told them that she, Ekstedt and Fuller were on their way to dinner when Ekstedt struck the victim on the head, knocking him to the floor. Fuller underwent emergency surgery, and his father said he was on a ventilator for a time.

A chemical dependency evaluation diagnosed Ekstedt with a methamphetamine use disorder, and his attorney said Ekstedt has bipolar disorder.

Feeding of eagles in city is banned

AK KETCHIKAN — The Ketchikan City Council passed an ordinance banning feeding wild eagles within city limits.

The Ketchikan Daily News reported the ordinance also prohibits property owners from allowing other people to feed eagles on their property. Violations are punishable by fines of up to \$500.

Council member Mark Flora said he supports the ordinance because he believes feeding eagles poses a risk to public safety and could lead to habituation.

From wire reports

FACES

Ken Burns' next project highlights Mayo Clinic

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

After spearheading an epic, 18-hour documentary on the Vietnam War, acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns has turned to more personal subject matter — one that knows him intimately, too.

Burns tackles the famed Mayo Clinic in his next film, exploring the history of the innovative Rochester, Minn.-based hospital that has been dubbed "The Miracle in a Cornfield." It has treated luminaries such as the Dalai Lama — and Burns.

The first time Burns went, he was immediately impressed by the level and detail of his medical care, like the patient was at the center, not the doctor. "I began to get curious about why this was so different from any other health care experience I'd had," he said.

The result is the two-hour documentary "The Mayo Clinic: Faith, Hope, Science," which starts with the hospital's birth during a tornado in 1883 and ends with the modern-day Mayo, state-of-the-art facilities over several campuses that treat up to 14,000 patients in 24 hours.

"The Mayo is just a quintessentially American story, just as baseball is a quintessentially American subject, as are the national parks, the Civil War," Burns said. "And this was a story firing on all cylinders, at least as far as I felt. And it was a story that I don't think had been fully understood."

The documentary — directed by Burns, Erik Ewers and Christopher Loren Ewers — features the voices of Tom Hanks, Sam Waterston and Blythe Danner, as well as familiar touches: Peter Coyote narrates, there's rousing music by Aaron Copland and Scott Joplin, and evocative slow-scans of old photographs known as "the Ken Burns effect."

The film is part of a documentary film empire Burns has on tap. Upcoming are works on the history of country music, Ernest Hemingway, Muhammad Ali, Benjamin Franklin and the American Revolution, as well as deep dives into crime and punishment in America and civil rights during President Lyndon Johnson.

"I'm plotted out to 2030 — God and funding willing," he said with a laugh. "As much as I'd like to believe that I pick projects, in fact I think they pick me. They pick me because they're just quintessential American stories, whatever they might be."



Burns



Tearing down the walls

Lauren Daigle aims to make Christian music relatable

By KRISTIN M. HALL
Associated Press

Three years ago, Lauren Daigle took home three Dove Awards for her debut record, "How Can It Be," and the Louisiana singer-songwriter got her first taste of the weight of genre's expectations on her shoulders. The 2015 album, one of only a few Christian music albums to have been certified platinum in recent years, propelled her to the top of the Christian music charts.

"You're sitting there with these awards and it's a beautiful moment," Daigle said. "But everything that was happening in my ears was like, 'Oh my gosh. How do I maintain this responsibility? How do I uphold this level of expectation?'"

Since then, the 27-year-old has more than risen to the challenge of being an ambassador for contemporary Christian music. She sang a duet with Reba McEntire on the Academy of Country Music Awards, recorded a song for the "Blade Runner 2049" soundtrack, earned two Grammy nominations and toured relentlessly.

Her follow-up, "Look Up Child," debuted this month at No. 3 on Billboard's all-genre album chart and had the best first week sales of any Christian album in nearly nine years, according to Billboard. Daigle, who is performing at this year's Dove Awards on Oct. 16 and is nominated for an American Music Award, recently talked with The Associated Press.

AP: This record has a lot of strings and orchestration. What was that like in the studio?

Daigle: We got to go into the studio and listen to all of the sounds that can be created from an orchestra, from the strings. I remember this moment, they were in a semi-circle and I sat in the middle and I had some friends come in and sit there with me. And tears just started falling down their faces. It was so pure. Just that kind of sound was so pure and rich. I loved the complement to the lyric that strings bring.

"Look Up Child," the second album from contemporary Christian singer and songwriter Lauren Daigle, debuted this month at No. 3 on Billboard's all-genre album chart.

MARK HUMPHREY/AP

You have a song called "Losing My Religion." Tell me about the meaning of that song.

I had realized there are so many moments where I let that expectation dictate my ability to perform, my perfectionism. And as much as we want to create a white picket fence, it's not real. It's a facade. And I think the sooner we realize that people can be messy and people are fragile, the more we actually start to see through the eyes of God, or the God that I know. We experience kindness for humanity. We experience joy for humanity. And we run toward them instead of building all these barriers. And so that's what "Losing My Religion" is. It's taking down all the boxes, taking down all the fences, and it's living as pure as and whole as possible.

Has it always been your goal to reach people beyond the Christian music genre?

We have this saying in my team that's called "Extend the tent pegs." And it's not to leave behind anybody that has listened to this music so far and that has been along this journey with me, because I am 100 percent grateful. So I don't want to leave anybody behind, but how to do I also make music that people who might not listen to Christian music they can also connect to? They can also relate to? That's super-important to me to make music that permeates all the walls and just tear all the walls down. People need love, people need hope. People need joy anywhere in life.

Do you want to change people's understanding of what Christian music can be?

Chance the Rapper got to do stuff with all these gospel artists. So profound. I love that, right? And that was something I wanted to bring in as well. Like elements where people who weren't necessarily church people, or Christians, or whatever the title is, who don't really dive into that kind of music can hear something and it is compelling enough and it is strong enough to where they are drawn in and feel welcomed and invited.

Celine Dion to end Las Vegas residency

Las Vegas will soon have to find a way to go on without Celine Dion, who announced Monday that her concert residency will end next year.

The Canadian music star took to social media to confirm that she will leave Caesars Palace in June 2019, a decision that brought "mixed emotions."

"Las Vegas has become my home and performing at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace has been a big part of my life for the past two decades," Dion said in a statement. "Every show we do at the Colosseum throughout this fall, and right up until the final one, will feel very special." Her final concert will be June 8, 2019.

She also expressed gratitude to all the fans who have come to watch her over the years.

Las Vegas has been home to her and her family since moving there in 2002. Her suburban Vegas home in Henderson is where her husband, Rene Angelil, died in January 2016 at age 73. Angelil, who was battling throat cancer, was also her manager. He is credited with molding Dion from a French-speaking ingenue into one of the world's most successful singers.

This will mark the end of Dion's second long-running residency at Caesars Palace. Dion has performed nearly 1,100 shows there since 2003. The first time was from 2003 until 2007. Her current residency began in 2011.

Gibson to head remake of 'The Wild Bunch'

Mel Gibson will co-write and direct a remake of Sam Peckinpah's classic 1969 Western "The Wild Bunch." No production start or release dates were announced.

Warner Bros. on Monday confirmed that Gibson will helm the production, with Bryan Bagby to co-write the script with him. It will be Gibson's first time directing since his 2016 World War II drama "Hacksaw Ridge," for which Gibson earned a best directing Oscar nomination.

"Hacksaw Ridge" was nominated for six Academy Awards including best picture. The Oscar reception was seen by some as a comeback for Gibson in Hollywood years after he pleaded no contest in 2011 to spousal battery of his former girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva.

Other news

■ **Blondie** will be playing two nights in Cuba next March as part of a four-day cultural exchange program. The iconic rock group announced Monday that they will play two concerts during their March 14-18 visit in Havana.

■ **Police** say a tour bus carrying British singer Gary Numan struck and killed a 91-year-old man Monday afternoon in Cleveland who was in a crosswalk. Numan said on Twitter that he and his team "are all devastated by the fatal accident." The singer's scheduled performance Monday night at the House of Blues Cleveland was canceled.

From The Associated Press

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OPINION

How will McConnell play this hand?

By DAVID VON DREHLE

The Washington Post

Every chip in Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's pile has been shoved into the center of the table. His high-stakes gamble for conservative control of the Supreme Court may be decided this week.

It is a bet he surely thought he would lose in the autumn of 2016. When the conservative hero Justice Antonin Scalia died unexpectedly in his sleep during a Texas hunting trip early that year, then-President Barack Obama waged that McConnell might have allowed the Republican-led Senate to confirm Judge Merrick Garland to fill the seat. Garland was well liked, philosophically moderate and, as an added enticement for the GOP, pushing 65. He would have been, relatively speaking, a short-term.

McConnell's incentive to confirm Garland was simple: A reality TV star had hijacked his party's presidential nominating process and appeared ready to drive the GOP bus over a cliff. If that had happened, Hillary Clinton would have won the White House. She could if she wished have taken Garland off the table and replaced him with a young and far more liberal nominee who might have been around for 30 years or more.

But McConnell didn't blink. (This might be literally true. Kentucky's longest-serving senator has the fixed gaze of a tortoise.) He refused to move on Garland's nomination. The high court stumbled along in forced moderation, four liberals and four conservatives settling only those cases that didn't inflame philosophical divisions. In November, to Washington's amazement, Clinton lost the election and McConnell won his bet.

Tune out for a moment, if you can, President Donald Trump's tweets and trade wars. This turn of events may well be the most consequential outcome of 2016. If Clinton had done marginally better in a few Great Lakes states, liberals would now be a majority of the Supreme Court, with healthy prospects for widening the margin and rejuvenating their team. McConnell's gamble on stonewalling Garland may have been the key to Trump's narrow victory. It made the stakes crystal clear for self-proclaimed Christian conservatives who might otherwise have been loath to vote for a boorish former casino owner. However, blocking Garland merely secured the Supreme Court status quo. Instead of losing Scalia's seat to a liberal, conservatives filled it with Justice Neil Gorsuch. That's no small matter on such a narrowly divided court — but it set the stage for something bigger.

Which brings us to this week's showdown. Brett Kavanaugh, if confirmed, would add the decisive fifth vote to a conservative majority of such ideological purity as the give-and-take of American democracy has rarely, if ever, provided. Winning the court has been the goal of the American right since the liberal heyday of the Warren court in the 1960s. And the prize seemed to be in hand — until a sexual assault allegation erupted from Kavanaugh's long-ago past to deal this week's hand.

So let's review the wagers. McConnell's majority is 51 to 49, which means he can afford to lose one Republican but not two. (In a 50-50 deadlock, Vice President Mike Pence would be the tiebreaker.) Before the assault allegations, a handful of votes from red-state Democrats were in play, but those odds have grown longer. Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill, for example, came down from the fence to announce her opposition

to Kavanaugh. Even Sen. Joe Manchin, whose West Virginia constituents are some of the most pro-Trump voters around, is unlikely to cross the line if the outcome is in doubt, a member of McConnell's leadership team told me, adding, "Manchin is always there when you don't need him."

Two women from the moderate wing of the GOP, Sens. Susan Collins, of Maine, and Lisa Murkowski, of Alaska, could team up to kill the nomination. If the outcome is in doubt, a member of McConnell's leadership team told me, adding, "Manchin is always there when you don't need him."

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Tradition of political brawls can be countered

By DAVID HEINEMAN AND MIKE BEEBE

CQ-Roll Call

IN the presidential election of 1800, John Adams' camp, through the Connecticut Courant newspaper, said that should Thomas Jefferson win the presidency, the United States would become a nation where "murder, robbery, rape, adultery and incest will openly be taught and practiced."

Jefferson's camp in turn accused Adams of being a "gross hypocrite" and "one of the most egregious fools on the continent."

Contrary to the common cries of "It's never been worse," politics has always been personal, passionate and contentious. The virtue we experience today is hardly unique to present-day America.

This is not to say we should be unconcerned. Many Americans are justifiably troubled; a recent poll by Quinnipiac University found that 91 percent of Americans view the lack of civility in politics as a serious problem. And it is undeniably true that disgust with the state of politics discourages some citizens from engaging in the political process, whether by performing public service, running for office or even simply voting.

Many say the culprit is social media. The internet has provided an easily kind, normal Americans the distance and anonymity to make cruel and disparaging remarks about people they might otherwise like in person. Others cite the fact that there's no longer a Walter Cronkite to whom all Americans turn to get their facts. Cable television now allows Americans to listen and absorb only the "facts" we care to hear. That's unhealthy.

A more recent phenomenon is that more Americans are choosing to live only among those with the same viewpoint. According to a 2016 Pew study, between 1992 and 2012, polarization increased by 29 percent across census regions, and all but three states saw an increase in geographic polarization.

These are unsettling realities, and they do differentiate the current turbulence from the past. However, not all is lost. We are picking up signals from across the country that people may be reaching the tipping point.

Earlier this year, we and our colleagues on the Bipartisan Policy Center's Governors' Council hosted an event with academic, business, state, local and community leaders from across the country who are launching campaigns to moderate civic disagreement. None of these efforts aims to gloss over differences or force everyone to the political middle. Instead, they urge people to agree to disagree respectfully, just as the Founders did time and time again.

America's Founders may have been political enemies but — critical for the nation's future — they believed in working together. The two chambers of Congress are themselves a compromise between the large and small states. The Electoral College was a compromise between those who favored the direct election of the president and those who opposed it. Had they each gone into the Constitutional Convention refusing to negotiate, the United States would have collapsed under the Articles of Confederation.

The two of us are familiar with what it takes to overcome such divides and produce action for the people who elected us.

For instance, as governor of Nebraska, Republican Heineman worked with members of both political parties in the Nebraska Legislature to lower taxes, balance the budget, invest in the education of our children, improve our infrastructure and create job opportunities for our citizens.

In 2013, Beebe, the Democratic governor of Arkansas, worked with a Republican legislature in a bipartisan effort on Medicaid expansion in the Affordable Care Act. In 2015, Beebe, the Republican governor of Arkansas, worked with a Democratic legislature to authorize funding for the Supermajority Privatization Fund. This approach used federal Medicaid dollars to purchase private insurance policies for Arkansans below 138 percent of the poverty level. That meant more than 100,000 Arkansans kept their health insurance, tens of thousands more became insured and hundreds of millions of federal dollars benefited the state's economy. The creation of a bipartisan coalition in Arkansas allowed the passage of Medicaid expansion and still offers a model for good governance.

The steps we're taking with our colleagues and the Bipartisan Policy Center to model a functioning public discourse are small, to be sure, but vital in our eyes.

It is no longer sufficient to lament the sorry state of political discourse, and we must all resist the urge to disengage in disgust. The way to weather the current storms is to re-engage, embracing our nation's rich history of vigorous debate and civic disagreement. Thomas Jefferson would have approved.

David Heineman, a Republican, served as governor of Nebraska from 2005 to 2015. Mike Beebe, a Democrat, served as governor of Arkansas from 2007 to 2015. Both are members of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Governors' Council.

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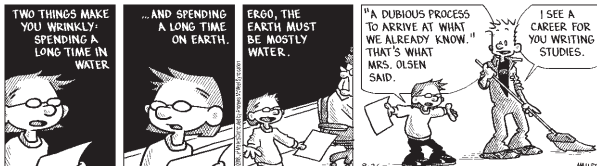
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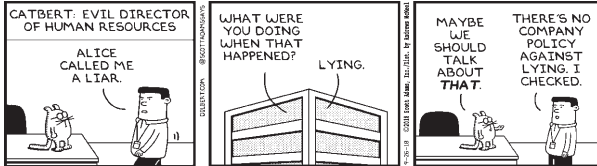


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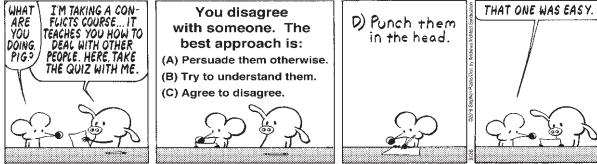
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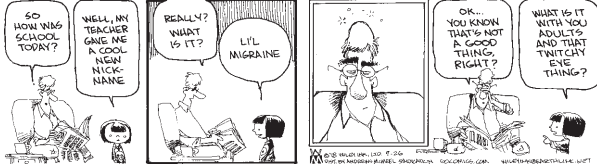
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Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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54					55				56			
57					58				59			

ACROSS

- Low-fat
- Trio after R
- Bygone jets
- River in Tuscany
- Work unit
- Related
- Je's visible
- Turkish money
- Thoreau piece
- Foot part
- 21 500 sheets
- Scall tool
- Needing liniment
- "The Wizard of Oz" author
- Hearty quaff
- By means of
- Tightly packed
- "Nasty!"
- Actor McKellen
- Yale students
- Shoppe description
- Weir
- Actress Penelope
- Stephen King novel
- Vampire's teeth
- Get wind of
- Disneyland transport
- Met solo
- Mentalist Geller

DOWN

- Valentine border
- Love god
- Curry and "out" Landers
- Seal user
- Poseidon's home
- Prefix with athlete
- Hybrid fruit
- Zesty dip
- Snowy Alpine path
- Grow weary
- Crisp cookie
- Reuben bread
- Dittarod terminus
- First victim
- Frenzied
- Bird (Pref.)
- Spy org.
- Staircase feature
- Cold War initials
- 31 TV type
- Supplement, with "out"
- Ms. Moore
- Arkansas range
- Orderly grouping
- E.T.'s craft
- Bloke
- Plane-related
- Flightless birds
- Hammer target
- Arizona river
- Sty chow
- Mine yield
- Veto

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	A	U	I	N	I	B	S	O	D	A
P	A	N	G	O	V	A	U	P	O	N
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9-26

CRYPTOQUIP

JZYMK WIVW GKDDBR SKKLJ

TVSZYQ BYK MBTLDVZYW

VGWKH VYBWKH, ZJ IK BY V

R I Z Y Z Y Q J W H K V S ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HOW WOULD SOMEBODY NAVIGATE A BIG ROOM THAT HAS BEEN CRAMMED FULL OF SEATS? VERY CHAIR-FULLY. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals S


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NBA/GOLF

10 things worth watching

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

MIAMI — Training camps for most NBA teams open Tuesday, and with the season fast approaching, here are 10 items of note as the league heads into the 2018-19 campaign:

Jimmy Butler

As media days were ending Monday, Jimmy Butler was still with the Minnesota Timberwolves. It's temporary. The first big saga of the 2018-19 season is Butler and his trade request. A slew of teams — including Miami, Cleveland, Brooklyn and more — have interest, as would be expected when talking about a four-time All-Star.

Golden State

The Warriors have won three of the last four NBA titles and added DeMarcus Cousins over the summer, making a great roster even greater. But Cousins, Kevin Durant, Klay Thompson and more could all be free agents next July 1, meaning Golden State may be changing more than its address the Warriors are moving into a new arena in 2019) after this season. "We're well aware it's not going to last forever," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said.

The East

For the first time since 2010, the Eastern Conference team in the NBA Finals will not be led by LeBron James — since he's now with the Los Angeles Lakers. So while Boston, Toronto and Philadelphia are clearly good, the East race is as open as it has been in a decade. James helped Miami win the East from 2011 through 2014, Cleveland in each of the last four seasons. *

Vince Carter

Carter is now with Atlanta, his eighth NBA team. He has an Olympic gold medal from 2000, but no NBA championships yet — though instead of ring-chasing in a season where he's turning 42, Carter decided to join a young team



JIM MONE/AP

The Timberwolves' Jimmy Butler told the team he won't re-sign with them and wants to be traded.

in Atlanta and simultaneously be a player and a mentor. "I'm trying to write the towel all the way out," Carter said.

Streaking Spurs

San Antonio has been to the playoffs in each of the last 21 seasons. The NBA record is 22 straight, set by Philadelphia from 1950 through 1971. If the Spurs get there this season, it'll be the first time they do so without any of their Big Three — Tim Duncan (retired two years ago), Manu Ginobili (retired this summer) or Tony Parker (now in Charlotte) — on the roster. "It's a great opportunity for a new challenge," said Spurs coach Gregg Popovich.

MVP watch

There are seven active MVPs in the NBA right now — LeBron James has won it four times, Stephen Curry twice, and Dirk Nowitzki, Derrick Rose, Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook and reigning MVP James Harden all have claimed the award once. All seven now play in the Western Conference.

Wellcome, rookies

No. 1 overall draft pick Deandre Ayton goes into his rookie season with

the Phoenix Suns with a rookie (at least, an NBA rookie) coach in Igor Kokoskov. Suns star Devin Booker raves about what he's already learned from Kokoskov, and Ayton is duly impressed so far as well. "Coach Igor is a smart coach, a very smart coach," the Suns' new center said. "He's all about fundamentals and really taking your time in the post, taking care of your body and really all about conditioning, as well as studying the game."

Waiting game

Memphis veteran Omri Casspi enters this season with a distinction nobody wants — no player in the NBA right now has been in more regular-season games without playing in a single playoff contest. Casspi has been in 552 games, none of them of the postseason variety, and that makes his playoff drought 17 games longer than Golden State's DeMarcus Cousins.

LeBron's salary

It's hard to find an NBA all-time list of anything where the Lakers' LeBron James isn't one of the leaders, and that includes earnings. James will pass Tim Duncan and Dirk Nowitzki and climb to No. 4 on the league's career salary list this season, the \$35.5 million he'll be getting in his first season with Los Angeles pushing him to about \$270 million for his 16 seasons. He's on pace to pass Shaquille O'Neal for the No. 3 spot in the 2019-20 season, and would then pass Kobe Bryant and Kevin Garnett for the No. 1 all-time spot in 2020-21.

Last dances

This will be the 21st and possibly final season for Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki, and two guys he faced in the 2006 and 2011 NBA Finals against Miami are among those who are going into a season for the last time. Dwyane Wade said earlier this month that this was his last dance, and Heat forward Udonis Haslem made the announcement Monday that his 16th season is his finale.

Happy: Preseason games start on Friday

FROM BACK PAGE

Whether they're going on the road or staying home, the goal for every club — the Warriors included — is the same: Be better.

"There's one team that's figured it out, all right?" Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Golden State has figured it out. They have the template right now. Everybody else is just trying to figure it out. Some people think they have a better track at it than others. Prove it. That's the whole point of this association. It's competition and you've got to prove it."

Warriors guard Stephen Curry said he was eager for media day, calling it "the official start to another season."

"Excited to get back to work, get the guys back together. Look forward to chasing another championship," Curry said in a video posted to the Warriors' social media channels.

James made his debut in a Lakers uniform out in Los Angeles. In Toronto and San Antonio, new Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard and new Spurs guard DeMar DeRozan talked about the summertime blockbuster that saw these changing jerseys. Up in Boston, Gordon Hayward talked about how he's finally been able to play 5-on-5 again in recent weeks



ALASTAIR GRANT/AP

Tiger Woods practices at Le Golf National in Guyancourt, France on Tuesday. The 42nd Ryder Cup begins on Friday.

Woods' win builds Ryder Cup buzz

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVE-LINES, France — Already the most intense competition in golf, the Ryder Cup doesn't need help to boost the excitement.

Tiger Woods managed to take it to another level.

He looked like the Woods of old by leading the U.S. team to victory in the Tour Championship, not letting anyone near him until it was too late, a vintage performance made all the more remarkable by four back surgeries and a future that looked bleak only a year ago.

Woods was a vice captain at the Presidents Cup a year ago, the week and said he envisioned a scenario where he never returned to competition. One PGA Tour event into his return, Jim Furyk selected him as a vice captain for the Ryder Cup.

And then he picked him for the team. And then Woods won for the first time in more than five years.

"It's obviously a nice buzz for our team," Furyk said Monday, a few hours after the American championship plane landed in Paris.

Monday was as much a time to reflect on Woods as it was to rest up for a busy week at Le Golf National.

"I spent 25 years playing professional golf with Tiger Woods on the scene, and any time he does anything great, that's a story. And that's where we want to see him," said Bjorn, the only player to be paired with Woods over 72 holes and beat him. That was in Dubai in 2001.

"He does so much for the game of golf," Bjorn said. "Watching that last night, I thought it was brilliant. It was great for the greater aspect of the game."

The television ratings show as much.

NBC Sports Group said the overall rating from the 10th Championship was 5.21, the highest-rated telecast in the 12-year history of the FedEx Cup playoffs, which cover 48 events featuring some of the strongest fields of the year.

That was the highest rating of the year this side of the majors, and the highest for the Tour

Championship dating to 2000.

"In the end, whatever it is these 24 guys are going to do this week, the game of golf needs that boost of somebody like him that transcends the game to the masses," Bjorn said. "So for everyone in golf, it's brilliant."

Now that Woods is back on his game, the hope for Furyk and the U.S. team is that he's not back to Ryder Cup form.

"We all that he has achieved — 80 victories on the PGA Tour, 14 majors, No. 1 in the world for 683 weeks — he has a 13-17-3 record in Ryder Cup matches, and he has played on only one winning team since his first one in 1997."

"We've played against them so many times before individually," Bjorn said. "But we respect our opponents and know what we are up against. What stands on the other side we know is one of the strongest American teams of all time... We do what we do as a European team, and then we go out and take that on the golf course, and that's all 12 Americans. It's not one individual."

Europe has done it well over the years.

The Americans have not won the Ryder Cup away from home since 1993, a drought Furyk has been hearing about since he was appointed captain in January 2017. The Americans have confidence from winning big at Hazeltine two years ago — Woods was a vice captain that week — and from a team that boasts nine major champions.

That makes them favorites on paper. And that means little, as recent history would suggest. Even with a loss two years ago, Europe still has won eight out of the last 11 times dating to that '93 American victory at The Belfry.

"I'm not sure you really need extra motivation in a Ryder Cup," Furyk said. "Obviously, I think there's a thorn in their side, and it's been that since 1993, and there's some veteran players that have played on a number of these teams that have never won on foreign soil. It's not anything I need to mention in the team room. They are well aware of it, and they are well aware of how difficult it is to win in Europe."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL/SPORTS BRIEFS



MICHAEL THOMAS/AP

Oklahoma State receiver Jalen McCleskey, right, runs after making a reception against Texas last season. McCleskey, a senior, had 15 catches for 155 yards and two touchdowns through Oklahoma State's first four games but is using the remainder of the year to redshirt and transfer to another school.

New redshirt rule makes transfer more appealing

By STEVE MEGARGEE

Associated Press

A new NCAA policy that makes it easier to redshirt football players comes with an unintended consequence: Players can now choose to save their eligibility by leaving teams after participating in four games, with plans to transfer and use the saved year at a new school.

Several upperclassmen who would have been out of eligibility had they kept playing this season have already taken this route, including Oklahoma State receiver Jalen McCleskey, a senior with 167 career catches.

The new rule took effect this year and was universally praised by coaches. In the past, playing just one game could cost a player a full year of eligibility. Football players have five years to play four seasons and take one redshirt year.

Minnesota's P.J. Fleck called the change the "greatest rule the NCAA has ever put in in the last 20 years."

It is proving popular with players, who get more opportunities to play — and, as it turns out, a little more autonomy.

"I just hadn't really thought (about) that being a possibility until it happened," Baylor coach Matt Rhule said of the midseason departures.

McCleskey is the most prominent player to take advantage of

the newly created opportunity. He had 15 catches for 155 yards and two touchdowns through Oklahoma State's first four games after having 73 receptions in 2016 and 50 in 2017.

"You lose a good player. But we live in a world where things like that happen now," Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said.

"Transfer's becoming very popular, and what would keep a young man from doing that across the country at any given time? But if they come to you and say, 'I'm not getting the ball enough and I feel like I need to be somewhere that allows that to happen,' then you have to give them that opportunity."

If McCleskey graduates before next season, he would be immediately eligible at his new school.

McCleskey's situation isn't unique.

Auburn already has had five players transfer since the start of the season. The list includes wide receiver Nate Craig-Myers, a junior who will still have two years of eligibility left, and tight end Jalen Harris, another junior who could be in position to graduate transfer.

"There's a new day in college football with the rule and all that," Auburn coach Gus Malzahn said on his radio show.

More transfers could be coming in the coming days as just about every team in the country will have played four games by next week.

Arkansas wide receiver Jonathan Nance, a former junior college transfer who led the Razorbacks in catches last season, tweeted Monday he will transfer and use this as a redshirt season. Oregon coach Mario Cristobal said Ducks running back Taj Griffin, who is in his fourth season, left the team and plans to transfer.

There has been speculation Alabama backup quarterback Jalen Hurts might choose this path, putting himself in position to be a graduate transfer next year with two years of eligibility left.

The NCAA also has some new rules regarding transfers that take effect this year. Starting on Oct. 15, the NCAA will have a database that keeps track of players who notify their coaches of their intent to transfer. Schools will no longer be able to block a transfer nor dictate where a player can go, unless their conferences have specific rules permitting that.

Already coaches say they're noticing redshirt candidates feeling more invested because they're getting a chance to play rather than spending the entire season on the sidelines.

Briefly

Giants GM Evans will be reassigned

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Bobby Evans was fired Monday as the San Francisco Giants' general manager.

The team said Evans will be reassigned, with responsibilities to be determined.

The move came as the Giants began the final week of the season at 72-84, their second straight losing record.

"I made the decision, really," CEO Larry Baer said. "At this point, we needed to take a fresh approach to baseball operations."

The club will start a search for a new head of baseball operations. "We're looking for someone that sort of is the 'next gen' general manager, if you will," Baer said.

"People will say 'new school versus old school,' people will say 'analytics versus scouting,' and I think that the new, next-generation general manager is able to do both, and will bring both to the mix."

Evans was hired by the Giants in 1994, became vice president of baseball operations in 2009 and general manager Brian Sabean and was promoted to GM in April 2015 when Sabean became executive vice president of baseball operations.

"He's a big part of our family tree," Sabean said. "I came into the organization in '93 and I believe Bobby shortly thereafter in '94. We've not only grown together in endeavors professionally with the Giants, we've grown together as people and it's a big part of your lifetime."

The Giants won World Series championships in 2010, 2012 and 2014. They made the playoffs again in 2016, but are 166-224 since taking a major league-best 57-33 record into the All-Star break that year.

In other baseball news: ■ Mike Scioscia says he would like to keep managing next year.

The longtime skipper of the Los Angeles Angels has been widely expected to step down after the regular season concludes this week. His comments to KLAAM radio Monday night suggested he is open to returning for a 20th season in the Angels' dugout, or perhaps a managing job elsewhere in baseball.

When asked directly if he wanted to keep managing, Scioscia said: "I'd like to."

"We'll continue to evaluate things this week," Scioscia added. "I'll speak with (Angels owner) Arte (Moreno) and speak with (general manager) Billy (Epler), and kind of come to a decision. But I think that if you love something, you want to continue to keep doing it. If you can, great. And if it doesn't happen, so be it. But I love the dugout."

Scioscia, who will turn 60 in November, is the longest-tenured manager in the majors by

seven seasons, and he earned his 1,600th career victory earlier this year. Since taking over the team for the 2000 season, he has led the Angels to six AL West titles and their only World Series championship back in 2002.

■ A 20-year-old food service worker at Comerica Park in Detroit has been charged after a video was posted online that appeared to show him spitting on a pizza intended for customers during a Major League Baseball game.

Jaylon Kerley was arraigned Tuesday on felony and misdemeanor food law violations. The felony charge is punishable by up to four years behind bars.

The video appeared on Instagram over the weekend. Officials determined the video was recorded Friday, when the Detroit Tigers were hosting the Kansas City Royals. Kerley was arrested Sunday and was fired.

His bond was set at 10 percent of \$100,000. He must be tested for infectious diseases.

Hall of Fame receiver McDonald dies at 84

PHILADELPHIA — Tommy McDonald, the small, speedy and sure-handed receiver who teamed with quarterback Norm Van Brocklin to help the Philadelphia Eagles win the 1960 NFL championship, has died. He was 84.

His death was announced Monday by the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Details were not disclosed.

McDonald was a two-time All-American from Oklahoma who played 12 NFL seasons for five teams and was a six-time Pro Bowl selection. When he retired in 1968, he ranked second in league history in touchdown catches, fourth in yards receiving and sixth in receptions.

But the 5-foot-7, 175-pound McDonald had to wait 30 years before becoming the smallest player inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

His induction speech was equal parts hysterics and historicism. McDonald told jokes and tossed his 25-pound bronze bust in the air. He pulled out a radio and danced to disco music — all on the steps of the hallowed hall.

"Tommy McDonald lived life like he played the game of football. He was charismatic, passionate and had fun," Hall of Fame President and CEO David Baker said. "He was such a character. Heaven is a happier place today."

In seven seasons with Philadelphia, the durable McDonald had 287 receptions for 5,499 yards, with a per-catch average of 19.2 yards. He had 66 touchdowns in 88 games, and No. 25 went to the Pro Bowl five straight seasons (1959-63).

BASEBALL SCOREBOARD

American League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	106	51	.675	
Y-A's	90	67	.569	
Tampa Bay	89	68	.568	.185
Toronto	71	86	.449	.540
Baltimore	45	111	.288	.693

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Cleveland	81	68	.544	
Minnesota	72	83	.465	.155
Detroit	63	95	.399	.327
C. Chicago	61	95	.391	.377
Kansas City	54	102	.346	.34

Yankees 4, Rays 1

New York	ab	r	h	b	Pct	GB
McCutchen	5	2	2	1	.500	
Judge	3	1	1	1	.333	
A-Rickie	2	0	0	0	.000	
Gardner	2	1	1	1	.500	
Adrian	2	0	0	0	.000	
Voit	4	0	1	0	.250	
Andujar	4	0	1	0	.250	
Chapman	1	0	0	0	.000	
G-Treses	2	0	0	0	.000	
Chavez	2	0	0	0	.000	
Hchvira	4	0	0	0	.000	

Athletics 7, Mariners 3

Oakland	ab	r	h	b	Pct	GB
Luevano	5	0	1	0	.200	
MChpm	3	4	1	2	.333	
Chavez	4	1	2	0	.500	
K-Davis	5	1	1	0	.200	
Slocum	4	1	1	0	.250	
Canh	3	0	1	0	.333	
Y-Jones	4	0	1	0	.250	
Wander	3	0	1	0	.333	
M-Olson	3	0	1	0	.333	
Semien	4	0	1	0	.250	
Lucroy	3	2	1	1	.333	

Seattle	ab	r	h	b	Pct	GB
Haniger	4	0	0	0	.000	
Segura	4	0	0	0	.000	
Canh	4	0	0	0	.000	
Cruz	4	0	0	0	.000	
Span	4	0	0	0	.000	
Seager	3	0	0	0	.000	
Gamel	3	0	0	0	.000	
Griffin	3	0	0	0	.000	
Drzon	2	0	0	0	.000	

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	88	68	.564	
Washington	79	78	.500	.093
Philadelphia	78	78	.500	.111
C. Chicago	71	88	.443	.288
Miami	62	94	.397	.26

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	81	65	.553	
Milwaukee	90	67	.573	.111
St. Louis	83	74	.528	.144
Pittsburgh	79	76	.510	.111
Cincinnati	60	92	.392	.251

Angels 5, Rangers 4 (11)

Los Angeles	ab	r	h	b	Pct	GB
Choo	4	0	0	0	.000	
K-Chun	4	0	0	0	.000	
Y-Jones	4	0	0	0	.000	
Ohtani	5	1	1	1	.333	
Proff	3	0	0	0	.000	
Gallo	5	0	0	0	.000	
Guzman	4	1	2	1	.500	
McLain	4	1	1	0	.250	
R-Chres	4	0	0	0	.000	
McLain	4	0	0	0	.000	
Andrus	4	0	0	0	.000	
W-Culm	4	0	0	0	.000	

Brewers 6, Cardinals 4

Milwaukee	ab	r	h	b	Pct	GB
Cain	4	1	3	0	.750	
Y-Jones	4	1	1	0	.250	
Aguiar	4	0	0	0	.000	
Shaw	2	0	0	0	.000	
Braun	4	1	2	1	.500	
Adrian	4	0	0	0	.000	
Cedeno	4	0	0	0	.000	
Thames	4	0	0	0	.000	
Soria	3	0	0	0	.000	
McLain	4	0	0	0	.000	
Mastak	3	0	0	0	.000	
Broxton	3	0	0	0	.000	

Rockies 10, Phillies 1

Philadelphia	ab	r	h	b	Pct	GB
Ch-Ryan	2	0	0	0	.000	
Knapp	3	0	0	0	.000	
C-Snith	3	0	0	0	.000	
Widling	3	0	0	0	.000	
O-Harris	3	0	0	0	.000	
Altherr	4	0	0	0	.000	
Bour	3	0	0	0	.000	
Altherr	3	0	0	0	.000	
Altherr	3	0	0	0	.000	
Altherr	3	0	0	0	.000	
Altherr	3	0	0	0	.000	

West Division

Los Angeles	W	L	Pct	GB
Angels	88	69	.561	
Colorado	70	78	.472	.095
Arizona	79	78	.503	.0
San Francisco	63	94	.401	.251

Angels 5, Rangers 4 (11)

Los Angeles	ab	r	h	b	Pct	GB
Choo	4	0	0	0	.000	
K-Chun	4	0	0	0	.000	
Y-Jones	4	0	0	0	.000	
Ohtani	5	1	1	1	.333	
Proff	3	0	0	0	.000	
Gallo	5	0	0	0	.000	
Guzman	4	1	2	1	.500	
McLain	4	1	1	0	.250	
R-Chres	4	0	0	0	.000	
McLain	4	0	0	0	.000	
Andrus	4	0	0	0	.000	
W-Culm	4	0	0	0	.000	

Brewers 6, Cardinals 4

Milwaukee	ab	r	h	b	Pct	GB
Cain	4	1	3	0	.750	
Y-Jones	4	1	1	0	.250	
Aguiar	4	0	0	0	.000	
Shaw	2	0	0	0	.000	
Braun	4	1	2	1	.500	
Adrian	4	0	0	0	.000	
Cedeno	4	0	0	0	.000	
Thames	4	0	0	0	.000	
Soria	3	0	0	0	.000	
McLain	4	0	0	0	.000	
Mastak	3	0	0	0	.000	
Broxton	3	0	0	0	.000	

Rockies 10, Phillies 1

Philadelphia	ab	r	h	b	Pct	GB
Ch-Ryan	2	0	0	0	.000	
Knapp	3	0	0	0	.000	
C-Snith	3	0	0	0	.000	
Widling	3	0	0	0	.000	
O-Harris	3	0	0	0	.000	
Altherr	4	0	0	0	.000	
Bour	3	0	0	0	.000	
Altherr	3	0	0	0	.000	
Altherr	3	0	0	0	.000	
Altherr	3	0	0	0	.000	
Altherr	3	0	0	0	.000	

Monday's games

Houston 5, Toronto 3	Boston 5, Baltimore 2
N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 3	Cleveland 4, Chicago White Sox 0
Los Angeles 5, Texas 4	11 Innings
Oakland 7, Seattle 3	
Pittsburgh 7, Miami 3	
Pittsburgh 5, Chicago Cubs 1	
Milwaukee 5, St. Louis 4	
Colorado 10, Philadelphia 1	
L.A. Dodgers 7, Arizona 4	
San Diego 5, San Francisco 4	

Tuesday's games

Houston at Cincinnati	
Houston at Toronto	
St. Louis at Boston	
N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay	
Cleveland at Chicago White Sox	
Los Angeles at Minnesota	
Texas at Los Angeles	
Atlanta at Washington	
Miami at N.Y. Mets	
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs	
Milwaukee at St. Louis	
San Diego at San Francisco	
L.A. Dodgers at Arizona	
San Francisco at San Diego	

Wednesday's games

Houston (TBD) at Toronto (Red-Field 2-4)	
Kansas City (Flymer 3-2) at Cincinnati (Red 1-2)	
Baltimore (Ramirez 1-7) at Boston (Sale 1-2)	
N.Y. Yankees (TBD) at Tampa Bay (TBD)	
Cleveland (Tomlin 2-5) at Chicago (White Sox 9-12)	
Detroit (Boyd 8-2) at Minnesota (Dorizoff 7-10)	
Texas (Hendez 2-2) at Los Angeles (Hendez 9-13)	
Oakland (Jackson 6-3) at Seattle (Hendez 9-13)	
Miami (Chen 6-11) at Washington (Gonzalez 6-11)	
Atlanta (Newcomb 12-9) at N.Y. Mets (deGrom 9-9)	
Pittsburgh (Chavez 14-8) at St. Louis (Gardner 7-6)	
Philadelphia (Nova 9-9) at Chicago Cubs (Quintana 13-11)	
Los Angeles (Pietila 7-13) at Colorado (McLain 13-10)	
L.A. Dodgers (Stripling 8-5) at Arizona (Bumgarner 6-6)	

Thursday's games

San Diego at St. Louis	
Los Angeles at Tampa Bay	
San Francisco at San Diego	
Arizona at Los Angeles	
San Diego at San Francisco	
Los Angeles at Tampa Bay	
San Francisco at San Diego	
Arizona at Los Angeles	
San Diego at San Francisco	
Los Angeles at Tampa Bay	
San Francisco at San Diego	
Arizona at Los Angeles	

Dodgers 7, Diamondbacks 4

Los Angeles	ab	r	h	b	Pct	GB
C-Taylor	7	3	3	1	.750	
Munich	4	1	2	1	.500	
Adrian	4	0	0	0	.000	
Freese	4	1	2	1	.500	
McLain	4	0	0	0	.000	
M-McHos	4	0	0	0	.000	
K-Chun	4	0	0	0	.000	
K-Chun	4	0	0	0	.000	
K-Chun	4	0	0	0	.000	
K-Chun	4	0	0	0	.000	

Pirates 5, Cubs 1

Pittsburgh	ab	r	h	b	Pct	GB
A-Fraser	5	0	0	0	.000	
P-Reyes	4	0	0	0	.000	
Bell	4	0	0	0	.000	
Adrian	4	0	0	0	.000	
Dickson	4	0	0	0	.000	
Adrian	4	0	0	0	.000	
Moran	3	0	0	0	.000	
Luplow	3	0	0	0	.000	
Adrian	3	0	0	0	.000	
Tailor	3	0	0	0	.000	
Kramer	3	0	0	0	.000	

Red Sox 6, Orioles 2

Baltimore	ab	r	h	b	Pct	GB
Mullins	4	0	0	0	.000	
Moniz	4	0	0	0	.000	
Moniz	4	0	0	0	.000	
Moniz	4	0	0	0	.000	
Moniz	4	0	0	0	.000	
Moniz	4	0	0	0	.000	
Moniz	4	0	0	0	.000	
Moniz	4	0	0	0	.000	
Moniz	4	0	0	0	.000	
Moniz	4	0	0	0	.000	

Friday's games

San Diego at St. Louis	
Los Angeles at Tampa Bay	
San Francisco at San Diego	
Arizona at Los Angeles	
San Diego at San Francisco	
Los Angeles at Tampa Bay	
San Francisco at San Diego	
Arizona at Los Angeles	
San Diego at San Francisco	
Los Angeles at Tampa Bay	
San Francisco at San Diego	
Arizona at Los Angeles	

Saturday's games

San Diego at St. Louis	
Los Angeles at Tampa Bay	
San Francisco at San Diego	
Arizona at Los Angeles	
San Diego at San Francisco	
Los Angeles at Tampa Bay	
San Francisco at San Diego	
Arizona at Los Angeles	
San Diego at San Francisco	
Los Angeles at Tampa Bay	
San Francisco at San Diego	
Arizona at Los Angeles	

Sunday's games

Cedeno	1/3	0	0	0	0
Burnes W,7-0	2/3	1	0	0	0
Soria H,13	1	0	0	0	0
Knebel S,16-19	1	0	0	0	0
St. Louis					
Flaherty	5 1/3	4	3	3	2
Hudson	2/3	0	0	0	1
Hicks BS,7	1	1	1	1	2
Norris L, 3-6	1	2	1	1	1

MLB

A's make playoffs, then beat Mariners

Oakland clinches at least a wild-card berth

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Champagne flowed in the clubhouse as players bopped around and screamed in a wild celebration after the Oakland Athletics clinched their first playoff berth in four years.

"It's a lot of fun," a soaked Khris Davis said. "We're just trying to enjoy the moment. It's a blast. We've been waiting for this day for a while. I feel so much excitement. It's just a dream come true."

The surprising Athletics were assured no worse than an American League wild card Monday night when Tampa Bay lost to the New York Yankees. A few hours later, Oakland finished off a 7-3 victory over the Seattle Mariners behind Davis' major league-leading 46th home run.

Jonathan Lucroy, Jed Lowrie and Matt Chapman also went deep for the A's.

And then, it was time to party.

Oakland was one out into the game when Tampa Bay was eliminated with a 4-1 loss to the Yankees. The A's went on to win after Chapman broke a 3-all tie with a two-run drive in the seventh off Shawn Armstrong (0-1).

Coming off three straight last-place finishes in the AL West, the A's (95-62) are 4½ games behind AL West-leading Houston. They trail the Yankees by 1½ games for home-field advantage should they meet in a wild-card matchup.

"No matter who we play or where it is, we'll be ready," Chapman said during the celebration. "I can't really put it into words, but this team is special."

Few predicted the A's could make the playoffs this season, a young team with few proven stars after going 75-87 a year ago. Oakland won only 68 games in 2015 and 69 in 2016. The A's have the third-lowest payroll among the 30 major league clubs at \$78 million for their 40-man roster, ahead of only the White Sox and Rays.

"This happened for us quicker than most people thought it would," manager Bob Melvin said. "This is the best group I've had in all my years of managing. It's everybody playing for the guy next to him. We really wanted to win this game. Even though we knew we had clinched, we wanted to celebrate right after a win."



JOHN FROSCHAUER/AP

The Oakland Athletics' Fernando Rodney is doused by beer during a celebration Monday after their 7-3 victory over the Mariners in Seattle. Oakland found out during the game it had earned a playoff berth when Tampa Bay lost to the New York Yankees.

Roundup

Red Sox set franchise record with 106th victory

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Red Sox were still shaking hands on the field when the "106" went up in the win column of the AL East standings that are posted on the Green Monster.

Scoreboards flashed "106 Wins." Fans waved signs to celebrate breaking a record that has stood as long as Fenway Park itself.

"You think about all the history of the game and the history of this franchise," Boston manager Alex Cora said after the Red Sox beat the Baltimore Orioles 6-2 on Monday night to earn their record 106th victory and clinch home-field advantage throughout the postseason.

"To be part of this, I can't even explain it. We should call timeout and enjoy this one," said Cora, who is in his first year as manager. "We know what we want to do in October, but this one... for us to do it is amazing."

Mookie Betts had a pair of hits to leave his major league-best batting average at .343, and Nathan Eovaldi struck out 10 hapless batters to assure the Red Sox of the best record in the major leagues this season and home-field advantage through the World Series, if they make it that far.

For now, they know they will open the Division Series at Fenway Park on Oct. 5 against the winners of the AL wild-card game between the New York Yankees and (most likely) Oakland.

The 1912 Red Sox won 105 games in their first season at Fenway Park.

Yankees 4, Rays 1: Aaron Hicks injured his left hamstring running up the first-base line, another concern for visiting New York heading into next week's AL wild-card game.

New York's win eliminated Tampa Bay



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

The Red Sox's Mookie Betts, right, is congratulated by Christian Vazquez after his two-run home run off Baltimore Orioles starting pitcher Dylan Bundy during the first inning of Monday's game at Fenway Park in Boston. The Red Sox won 6-2.

and ensured a postseason berth for Oakland, which is likely to be the wild-card opponent but also is still alive in the AL West race. At 96-60, New York is assured of its best record since going 97-65 in 2011.

Astros 5, Blue Jays 3: Brian McCann and Josh Reddick hit back-to-back home runs, and visiting Houston beat Toronto to move one step closer to its second straight AL West title.

The defending World Series champions reduced their magic number to two over Oakland to clinch the division — which would set up a best-of-five postseason matchup against AL Central champion Cleveland.

Dodgers 7, Diamondbacks 4: David Freese homered and had three hits to back Clayton Kershaw (9-5) as visiting Los Angeles maintained its lead in the NL West.

Manny Machado had two RBIs for the Dodgers, including a groundout deep into the shortstop hole with the bases loaded in the seventh inning that brought in Yasiel Puig with the go-ahead run. Los Angeles added three ninth-inning runs to stay 1½ games ahead of Colorado.

Rockies 10, Phillies 1: Jon Gray (12-8) pitched seven crisp innings and drew a bases-loaded walk as part of a five-run third to lead host Colorado over Philadelphia. The Rockies won their fourth straight

game since being swept at Dodger Stadium. They closed within a half-game of St. Louis for the second wild card.

Brewers 6, Cardinals 4: Eric Thames scored on reliever Bud Norris' throwing error in the eighth inning and visiting Milwaukee improved its playoff positioning by topping St. Louis.

The Brewers (90-67) opened a three-game lead over St. Louis for the top spot in the wild-card standings and pulled within 1½ games of the NL Central-leading Chicago Cubs.

Pirates 5, Cubs 1: Jameson Taillon (14-9) outpitched Cole Hamels (4-2), Francisco Cervelli hit a two-run homer and visiting Pittsburgh made Chicago wait at least another day to clinch a playoff spot.

The Cubs needed a win plus a loss by Colorado to assure a franchise-record fourth straight trip to the playoffs, a run that includes a drought-busting World Series championship in 2016.

Indians 4, White Sox 0: Corey Kluber (20-7) struck out 11 in seven scoreless innings and won his 20th game, and Brandon Guyer hit a go-ahead solo homer in the seventh as AL Central champion Cleveland beat host Chicago.

Nationals 7, Marlins 3: Anthony Rendon homered and drove four runs, Bryce Harper reached 100 RBIs in a season for the first time and host Washington beat Miami.

Padres 5, Giants 0: Bryan Mitchell (2-4) struck out seven in 8½ strong innings, and Jose Pirela had a homer among his three hits to lead visiting San Diego.

Angels 5, Rangers 4 (11): Jose Briceño delivered a pinch-hit homer leading off the 11th inning, and host Los Angeles snapped its five-game skid by beating Texas.

NFL



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Trainers attend to 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, who was injured during a run against the Chiefs on Sunday. San Francisco announced Monday that Garoppolo tore the ACL in his left knee.

49ers' Garoppolo out for the year

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Jimmy Garoppolo's addition last season immediately turned around the fortunes of the San Francisco 49ers. Now the 49ers will have to go back to life before Garoppolo for the rest of the season.

The Niners announced Monday that Garoppolo tore the ACL in his left knee while making a cut late in a loss at Kansas City, sidelining him for the rest of the season.

"It is very unfortunate," coach Kyle Shanahan said. "I'm not going to sugarcoat it. It was hard waking up today. We were down and disappointed about it because we were looking forward a lot to playing with Jimmy this year and going through the good and the bad knowing that he'd benefit from all of it. Now we don't get to do it. I know Jimmy is really down about it and so are we but it's still going to be all right."

The injury deals a serious blow to the 49ers (1-2), who had planned their rebuild around Garoppolo and now must turn again to C.J. Beathard at quarterback.

Garoppolo will undergo surgery in the next week or two after the swelling goes down and should be ready to play again next season. The 49ers are planning to bring several veterans in for tryouts this week, including Tom Savage, Kellen Clemens, possibly T.J. Yates and Matt Moore.

The Niners struggled with Beathard and Brian Hoyer last season before the midseason addition of Garoppolo changed their fortunes. San Francisco won the final five games last year after Garoppolo took over as starter and the team rewarded him with a \$137.5 million, five-year contract.

The 49ers will have to wait another year to earn dividends on that investment. Garoppolo got

hurt in the fourth quarter of a 38-27 loss Sunday when he was scrambling toward the sideline and decided to cut up field instead of going out of bounds.

Garoppolo's left knee buckled just before Kansas City cornerback Steven Nelson delivered a big hit, ending what was supposed to be his first full season as a starter after just three games.

Expectations were high in San Francisco this season that the team could end a four-year playoff drought after Garoppolo had a full offseason to immerse himself in Shanahan's offense. But with Garoppolo and new running back Jerick McKinnon both knocked out for the season with torn ACLs in September, those high hopes have been put on hold.

Garoppolo had completed 59.6 percent of his passes with five TDs, three interceptions and an average of 8.1 yards per attempt for a 90 passer rating. While he hasn't been quite as efficient as he was late last year after being acquired at the trade deadline from New England for a second-round pick, the Niners offense has been far more potent than it was before he took over as quarterback.

Beathard started five games as a rookie last year, completing 54.9 percent of his passes with four touchdowns, six interceptions, 19 sacks, 6.4 yards per attempt and a 69.2 passer rating that was second lowest in the NFL.

Beathard threw a touchdown pass to George Kittle on his first snap Sunday only to have it negated by a penalty and wasn't in for any other plays in the game.

"I have a lot of confidence in C.J.," Shanahan said. "I think C.J. got a lot of experience last year. We liked him a lot coming out of college. ... He got thrown into as tough a situation as I could imagine a rookie quarterback being thrown in and the guy didn't blink."

Rookie QBs Rosen, Mayfield named starters this week

Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Rookie Josh Rosen will take over as the Arizona Cardinals' starting quarterback this Sunday against the Seattle Seahawks.

Rosen, the 10th overall pick in this year's draft, replaced veteran Sam Bradford in Sunday's 16-14 loss to the Chicago Bears.

He'll join fellow rookie and top overall pick Baker Mayfield in getting their first starts this week.

Rosen couldn't rally the Cardinals to a win, as he threw an interception to end his first drive and was sacked to end the second. But the rookie from UCLA completed four of seven passes for 36 yards and apparently showed coach Steve Wilks enough for him to make a change for the winless Cardinals (0-3).

"Josh plays with a lot of confidence. He gives us the opportunity to be successful," Wilks said Monday. "When you look at the situation when he went into the game, I didn't have a problem putting him in at that time because I know he's very confident in what he's doing."

Wilks informed the players of his decision Monday morning.

Bradford handled the news well, Wilks said, and will be asked to continue to help mentor Rosen.

Arizona's offense has produced just 49 points in three games. Wilks felt going with Rosen would provide a spark against the Bears, and he hopes that will continue going forward.

"His mobility, being able to buy time in the pocket. I think he's accurate, he has a strong arm, he can put the ball where it needs to be," Wilks said. "Inexperience? Yes. He's a rookie. So we're going to do a great job with the communication, making sure that the offensive line and he are on one accord from the standpoint of protections."

In Cleveland, Browns coach



RICK SCUTEN/AP

Cardinals quarterback Josh Rosen gives out signals at the line of scrimmage against the Bears on Sunday. Rosen replaced Sam Bradford in the second half and was named the starter on Monday.

Hue Jackson as expected named Mayfield the team's new starter on Monday, just days after the No. 1 overall pick replaced an injured Tyrod Taylor and dazzled in his pro debut by rallying the Browns to a 21-17 come-from-behind win over the New York Jets — Cleveland's first since 2016.

Taylor's concussion forced the Browns to alter their plans and play Mayfield sooner than anticipated.

The Heisman Trophy winner didn't disappoint.

"He went out there into some tough situations, down 14 late in the second quarter, and handled all of that extremely well and went and played well. He checked off every box for me," Jackson

said. "I am not surprised by what he did in the game. I do not think that his teammates are. I do not think that the coaches are. I think that we knew, once he got his opportunity, he would go in there and nail it."

"That is what he did." Under the national TV spotlight, Mayfield came in late in the first half and showed a seasoned veteran's poise. He made quick decisions and even quicker throws while completing 17 of 23 passes for 201 yards in just more than one half.

Jackson said he hopes Taylor will be cleared from concussion protocol in time to back up Mayfield on Sunday against the Raiders.

Briefs

Rams CBs Talib, Peters injured

Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Los Angeles Rams coach Sean McVay had never considered the possibility of losing starting cornerbacks Aqib Talib and Marcus Peters in the same game.

It happened in the win over the Chargers on Sunday, and Los Angeles could be without both Talib and Peters against Minnesota on Thursday night.

Talib could miss a significant amount of time and will likely need surgery to repair an ankle injury he sustained in the second half, McVay said Monday.

"He is going to get a second opinion tomorrow, but more than likely he's going to have something that will probably require surgery. But hopefully we'll get him back in some point in time, and he'll handle it the right way and do everything he can to get back sooner than later," McVay said.

A decision on whether to place Talib on injured reserve would come once there is more information available and a course of treatment is determined, McVay said. The Rams would be able to activate Talib eight weeks after placing him on injured reserve.

McVay said the Rams caught a break regarding the severity of the calf injury Peters sustained in the second quarter. Peters is day to day and could play against the Vikings, but McVay would not say if he would ask Peters to play if the fourth-year cornerback feels less than 100 percent.

The injuries leave the Rams with backups Sam Shields and Troy Hill and slot corner Nickell Robey-Coleman.

In other NFL news:

■ Dolphins defensive end William Hayes will miss the rest of the season with a torn ACL he suffered trying to avoid a roughing-the-passer penalty.

Hayes was hurt when he sacked Oakland's Derek Carr during Miami's 28-20 victory Sunday.

"He was trying to not put body weight on the quarterback," coach Adam Gase said Monday. "His foot got caught in the ground."

Hayes leads the Dolphins with two sacks. His loss is costly even though the front four was the Dolphins' deepest area.

■ Packers defensive lineman Muhammad Wilkerson underwent surgery on his left ankle on Sunday and will be lost for the season.

SPORTS



Finally, a win
Roethlisberger, Steelers hold off
Bucs for first victory » **Page 31**



JEFF CHIU/AP

Golden State Warriors, from left, Kevin Durant, Draymond Green, Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and DeMarcus Cousins pose during Monday's media day in Oakland, Calif.

Happy campers

Teams start new season with goal of dethroning Warriors

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

There were some Larry O'Brien trophies on display at Golden State's media day on Monday, shiny golden reminders of the three championships the Warriors have picked up over the past four years.

Their quest for another is about to begin.

So will the quest by 29 other teams to thwart them.

The offseason is over in the NBA. Most

teams held media day Monday, the prelude to the start of training camps. And just like last year, those camps — from Hawaii to British Columbia to Massachusetts and 27 other spots in between — will begin with the Warriors reigning over the league and everyone else pining to get on Golden State's level.

"We've got a long way to go to get to Golden State," said LeBron James, who left Cleveland — and what became an annual date with Golden State in the NBA Finals — for the Los Angeles Lakers over the summer. "They can pick up right where they left

off ... we're picking up from scratch. So we have a long way to go. We can't worry about what Golden State is doing. Golden State is what Golden State and they're the champions."

With the exception of Dallas and Philadelphia, who were permitted to start camp early because they're headed to China for preseason games, every NBA club held its first practice of the season on Tuesday. The Los Angeles Clippers are going to Hawaii, Denver is headed to San Diego, Toronto is setting up camp a few miles outside of Vancouver.

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MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

The Lakers' LeBron James smiles as a microphone is placed on his chest Monday in El Segundo, Calif.

A's clinch first playoff berth in four years » Page 29

